

Hafa Adai!

DPS suspends search for missing fisherman. **PAGE 2**  
NMI visitor arrivals up 47 pct in March 2017. **PAGE 3**

# Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 80

[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

MONDAY APRIL 24, 2017

[www.facebook.com/saipantribune](http://www.facebook.com/saipantribune)

75¢

## Plane safely lands at golf course

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**A**bout six minutes into a sight-seeing tour of the island, a Piper PA28-140 Cherokee Cruiser plane of the Marianas Air Transfer Inc. experienced an engine problem, but its

pilot successfully landed the aircraft on the fairway of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort in Kagman last Saturday afternoon where a charity golf tournament was wrapping up. Fortunately, no one was injured.

The Filipino pilot, Capt. Josh Dominise, and his two Chinese female passengers were not injured, witnesses and police said.

The last group of golfers had just finished that particular hole so nobody was on that fairway, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

» **Pilot, 2 passengers uninjured**

Police and Commonwealth Ports Authority officers secured the site until National Transportation Board and Federal Aviation Administration investigators fly in, **See PLANE on Page 4**



A Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services ambulance and police officers respond to hole No. 5 of Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, where a four-seat Piper PA28-140 Cherokee Cruiser plane successfully crash landed on the fairway on Saturday afternoon. The pilot and two passengers were uninjured.

## CBP: Conditional parole poses challenges

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The United States Customs and Border Protection is aware of the challenges they face in enforcing the conditional parole, especially for those who would abuse the program for their own benefit. Chinese

and Russian tourists use the parole program, which grants visitors from the said countries 45 days of stay in the CNMI.

However, some construction workers were discovered to have entered the CNMI as tourists using the parole program. The said laborers are working for contractors and subcon-

tractors tapped by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC to build its multi-million dollar Imperial Pacific Resort.

CBP program manager and public affairs liaison Frank Falcon said this is one of the reasons why they would intensify their enforcement and

**See CBP on Page 4**

## Torres to testify on Kilili's CW1 bill

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres left for Washington, D.C. yesterday as he is scheduled to testify in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources at 10am on Thursday (Wednesday in the CNMI).

The hearing, which is in connection with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.



Sablan's (D-MP) House Resolution 339, will be streamed live on [www.energy.senate.gov](http://www.energy.senate.gov) at 12 midnight in the Commonwealth.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) will preside the hearing being the chair of the committee, which has oversight jurisdiction on United States territories like the CNMI.

**See TORRES on Page 4**

## INSIDE



### LOCAL

The welcoming ceremony of the first Chamorro Sakman voyage from Guam to Saipan in 200 years was held yesterday.

**PAGE 8**



### BUSINESS

Apprentices no more, Eric and Donald Trump Jr. are now at the helm of the Trump Organization and adjusting to the reality presented by their father's presidency.

**PAGE 14**



### ASIA

Chinese forces tried to drive away two Philippine planes carrying Manila's defense and military chiefs Friday near a Chinese man-made island.

**PAGE 16**



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com)

# Local

## DPS suspends search for missing fisherman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Citing limited resources, the Department of Public Safety suspended on Saturday night its search efforts for a Filipino fisherman who has been reported missing after he went on fishing aboard a boat, but

### » US Coast Guard continues search until today

failed to return back to Sugar Dock on Saipan last Wednesday afternoon.

DPS acting spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong, however,

disclosed that the U.S. Coast Guard continued the search for Lito Aguilar and his white "Calias boat" yesterday and until today, Monday, with a C130 plane and the USCG Cutter "Washington."

Tarkong said the search pattern will include an aerial search east of Tinian and

south of Saipan.

DPS Saipan and Tinian Boating Safety Units along with USCG, Homeland Security Emergency Management and Commonwealth Ports Authority Harbor Patrol saturated the east coast of Tinian up to Forbidden Island, Saipan.

The search also covered

30 miles south to include 25 miles of coastal search of Tinian and Goat Island.

Last Wednesday at 9:17pm, DPS Central received a call of an overdue fisherman, Aguilar, described as over 50 years old.

Tarkong said a witness helped Aguilar launch the boat Wednesday at 12:30pm. The white 17-footer "Calias"



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Filipino fisherman Lito Aguilar is seen here in this undated photo.

boat was described as having a green stripe and a 90-horsepower Yamaha outboard engine. The boat registration number CM-0373-PU is printed on the boat's side.

Aguilar would fish regularly and return back to Sugar Dock at 5pm.

When Aguilar failed to return, the eyewitness reported the matter to the police. DPS immediately launched Boating Safety patrol boats for the search operation.

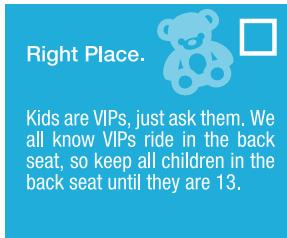
Police learned that Aguilar's fishing spots and points of interest would be the north end of Tinian.

## Car Seat Checkup Top 5 things to do



### Right Seat.

This is an easy one. Check the label on your car seat to make sure it's appropriate for your child's age, weight and height. Like milk, your car seat has an expiration date. Just double check the label on your car seat to make sure it is still safe.



Kids are VIPs, just ask them. We all know VIPs ride in the back seat, so keep all children in the back seat until they are 13.



### Right Direction.

You want to keep your child in a rear-facing car seat for as long as possible, usually until the age of 2 or when the child reaches the maximum height or weight limit required by the car seat manufacturer. Once the child outgrows the rear-facing position, they are ready to move to a forward facing seat or position.



### Check for Tightness.

Once your car seat is installed, pull on the seat from all directions to check whether it is secured and should not move more than an inch. Check your car seat manual when installing a car seat using top tether and lower anchors.



### Pinch Test.

Make sure the harness is tightly buckled and coming from the correct slots (check car seat manual). Now, with the chest clip placed at armpit level, pinch the strap at your child's shoulder. If you are unable to pinch any excess webbing, you're good to go.

*Please read the vehicle and car seat instruction manuals to help you with this checklist. If you are having even the slightest trouble, questions or concerns, don't worry about a thing. You can contact Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians at the numbers below.*

Please contact the CHCC Maternal & Child Health Bureau at 664-8703 or the DPS Car Seat Program at 664-9125 to speak with a Child Passenger Safety Technician.

*This ad has been brought to you by the CNMI Maternal and Child Health Bureau through funds by the US Department of Health & Human Services.*



## MAKING EACH DAY COUNT

2017

May 15-19, 2017

**Join the CHCC's Community Guidance Center in educating CNMI on healthy living and the power of PREVENTION to help prevent substance abuse and mental health disorders!**



## SAIPAN, ROTA, & TINIAN

### POSTER CONTEST

(Grade School & Middle School Students)

- Due on May 10, 2017 at 4:30 PM
- Use 11" x 17" poster (If needed, pick-up at Prevention Offices)
- Any Art Medium (No print, digital artwork, & photography)
- Prizes includes Art supplies, featured on 2018 NPW Calendar, and more!

### SPIRIT WEEK (High School Students)

- May 15, 2017 (Monday) through May 18, 2017 (Thursday)
- First 10 students that follow the theme will get a prize!

**THEMES:**

- Monday, May 15, 2017 – Too Smart To Do Tobacco: Wear your class shirt or color.
- Tuesday, May 16, 2017 – Team Up Against Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs: Hats and Sports Day.
- Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – Prescription Drugs Misuse: Super Hero Day Dress up like your favorite superhero.
- Thursday, May 18, 2017 – Marijuana Prevention: Twinside Day (Slogan: A friend in deed, won't make you smoke that weed.) Dress up like your friend who has a positive influence in your life.

### CNMI NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK FOR MORE INFORMATION:

**SAIPAN:** Charnessa "Chenny" Lizama  
npwcnmi@gmail.com (670) 323-6560

**TINIAN:** Keith Nabors  
tiniantyphoon@hotmail.com (670) 433-6572

**ROTA:** Benedicta San Nicolas  
benedicta.sannicolas@gmail.com  
(670) 532-9461

*This advertisement is made possible by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration with CHCC: Community Guidance Center - Substance Abuse Prevention Services Unit.*



CGC-Prevention Services Unit



cgc\_prevention



cgc\_prevention



## NMI visitor arrivals up 47 pct in March 2017

Visitor arrivals to the CNMI increased 47 percent in March 2017 compared to March 2016. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota registered 54,841 visitors in February 2017, compared to 37,317 visitors received in March 2016. This was the fourth highest visitor arrivals for the month of March.

Arrivals from Korea more than doubled for the second month in a row, catapulting 12 percent higher to 28,712 visitors, representing over half of all tourist arrivals to the Commonwealth for the month. Arrivals to the CNMI from Korea are up 80 percent overall this fiscal year, driven

### Ex-Rota councilman dies from gunshot wound

Former Rota Municipal councilman Kevin Taimanao Atalig died of gunshot wound at his house in Songsong Village on Rota last Friday morning, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

It is not clear yet whether it was a self-inflicted wound or an accident.

Department of Public Safety acting spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong confirmed that Atalig passed away, but stated he has not details yet as of yesterday afternoon.

"He was a friend of mine. He's a great entertainer," Tarkong said.

A singer, Atalig was awarded as Local Artist of

## DPA CAR MART

WEEKLY SHIPMENT OF QUALITY PRE-OWNED VEHICLE FROM U.S. MAINLAND



We accept special order, name it and will bring it here!  
DOWN PAYMENT AS LOW AS \$1,000.00  
Call 287-8688/235-8688 or visit DPA CAR MART in San Antonio  
[www.dpacarmart.com](http://www.dpacarmart.com)

## ATTENTION Government Employees & Retirees!

**The Island Smiles Dental Plan now available via your allotment**

- **Low Cost:** \$5.00 (Individual Plan) \$6.00 (Two-Party Plan) or \$7.00 (Family Plan per allotment.) Least expensive dental plan in the CNMI
- Members receive at LEAST 20%-50% discounts on all dental procedures
- **Plan Provider:** Paradise Dental Center. State-of-the-art, full service General & Cosmetic dental clinic. Newest dental clinic & most experienced dentist in the CNMI



Award-winning dentist  
Kind and Gentle  
**Dr. Nelson Krum**

## Paradise Dental Center

Hawaii Dental Service, TakeCare & Staywell Insurances  
also accepted. Medicaid patients welcome!

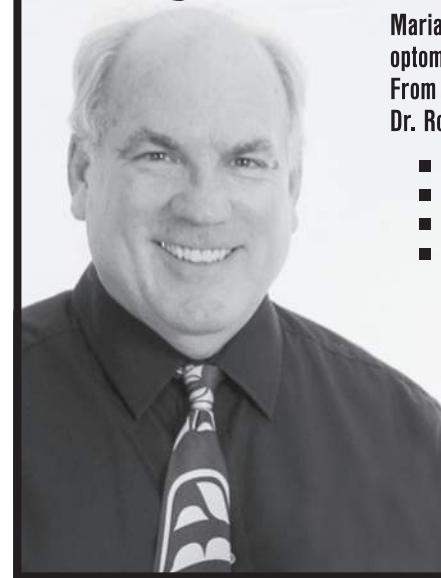
**Call 234-4040**

Middle Road, Gualo Rai

Stop by and pick up your enrollment packet or send an email request to [paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com](mailto:paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com)



## "Expert Care....Every Day!"



Marianas Eye Institute is very fortunate to have our outstanding optometric physician, Dr. Mark D. Robertson, on staff. From simple eye problems, to the most complex, Dr. Robertson and Dr. Williams are here to help you.

- Recipient of National Honors for Research in Eye Care
- Recipient of Optometric Recognition Award
- Certified by the National Board of Examiners in Optometry
- Doctor of Optometry - "Magna Cum Laude"

**Open six days a week, Mon - Sat, 8 am - 5 pm.**

We welcome Aetna, Self-pay, Staywell, Netcare, Calvo's, TakeCare, Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, Blue Cross Blue Shield, and more!

**235-9090**

Walk-in's welcome.  
Beach Road Garapan.

  
**Marianas Eye Institute**  
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

**AQUA RESORT CLUB**  
Saipan

## 2017 Administrative Professional Day



**Costa**  
Terrace Restaurant

### International Theme Menu

#### S A L A D

Bouquet of Garden Lettuce with Assorted Condiments and Dressings  
Red Beets and Orange with Roasted Walnuts  
Mashed Potato with Apple, Carrot and Cucumber  
Angel Hair Pasta with Smoked Salmon, Tomato and Capers  
Cold Cuts and Cheese Salad with Capsicum and Olives, Dijonaise Dressing

#### C O L D

Salad of Romaine Lettuce with Caesar Dressing and Condiments  
Baby Shrimp "Louie" in Shot glass  
Jamaican Spiced Corn Tortilla chips with Dipping  
Chicken Kelaguen Rolls Smear with Avocado-Mayo  
Assorted Cheese Platter with Nuts and Crackers  
Assorted Cold Cuts Platter with Olives, Pearl Onions and Gherkins

#### B R E A D

Assorted Freshly Baked Bread

#### S O U P (Live Station)

Sato Ayam (Indonesian Chicken Noodle Soup)

#### H O T E N T R E E S

Tuna Cake with Avocado Tartar  
Hoisin Glazed Roasted Chicken on Light Green Tea Cream  
Emince of Pork "Zurichoise" Gratin with Orange Sabayon  
Beef roulade with Bacon, Onion and Gherkins, Burgundy Jus  
Assorted Vegetables Chiffonade on Tomato Coulis  
Risi y Bisi (Rice with Green Peas)  
Steamed Rice

#### D E S S E R T S

Pina colada Cake  
Apple-Cinnamon Pie  
Black Sesame "Custard"  
Individual Chocolate Mouse  
Assorted Seasonal Fruits



For reservation please call Aqua Resort Club @ 322-1234 ext. 731 or 732  
Please inquire also for group parties from 10 to 160 seats (Christening, Birthdays, Meetings or Seminars)

## Manglona remands to Superior Court Torres' 4 claims in suit vs E-Land, others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The federal court has granted attorney Vincent DLG Torres's motion to remand to the Superior Court as to his four remaining claims in his lawsuit against E-Land World Co. Ltd. and others.

Remanded are claims for accounting, fraudulent concealment and usurpation of corporate opportunity, breach of fiduciary duty, and assisting a breach of fiduciary duty.

At the hearing, Torres voluntarily agreed to arbitrate his first cause of action, fraudulent misrepresentation.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona

V. Manglona granted defendants' motion to compel arbitration as to Torres' first cause of action, fraudulent misrepresentation.

The defendants in this case are E-Land World Ltd., Suwaso Corp., Micronesian Resort Inc., and Dennis Seo. E-Land is the majority shareholder of the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Having granted defendants' motion to compel arbitration as to the lawyer's first cause of action, fraudulent misrepresentation, Manglona said she will dismiss the claim and retain jurisdiction to enforce any arbitration.

Torres alleged in his lawsuit that defendants made

several fraudulent representations to him regarding defendants' plans for COP during negotiations surrounding their agreement, which he relied on to his detriment as a minority shareholder in Suwaso Corp.

Suwaso Corp. owns COP. In 2012, Marianas Resort Inc. and Yusuke Fumoto agreed to sell his 85 percent ownership interest in Suwaso to Marianas Resort Inc. Torres remains a minority shareholder of Suwaso stock, holding a 15 percent ownership interest.

Manglona denied defendants' motion to compel arbitration and motion to dismiss, or alternatively, stay action as to Torres' remaining

four claims.

Torres sued the defendants for allegedly failing to provide a proper accounting, embarking upon a scheme to misappropriate business opportunities and funds, and negotiating loans over \$5 million without proper authorization. The case was originally filed in the Superior Court. The defendants then moved to transfer the lawsuit to the District Court.

The defendants, though counsel Richard W. Pierce, also moved the District Court to compel all Torres's claims to arbitration before the American Arbitration Association.

Pierce asserted that Torres is legally bound by the broad

arbitration agreement in the Purchase and Sale Agreement of Capital Stock of Suwaso Corp. (Agreement).

The Agreement, Pierce said, was executed on Aug. 23, 2012 and amended on Oct. 12, 2012 by Fumoto and Micronesian Resort Inc.

Pierce said Torres negotiated the agreement on behalf of Fumoto. The agreement, he said, effectuated the transfer of a majority ownership interest in Suwaso Corp. from Fumoto to Micronesian Resort Inc.

In Torres' opposition to compel, attorney William M. Fitzgerald, counsel for Torres, said E-Land and co-defendants continue to misstate and mischaracterize the facts in or

der to create a false narrative that will comport with these general principles.

Fitzgerald said the court must decide the question of arbitrability because Torres did not agree to be bound by the arbitration clause or the rules of the American Arbitration Association.

In her decision and order issued last Thursday, Judge Manglona ruled that the defendants have established that the Agreement could "conceivably affect the outcome" of Torres's first cause of action.

**A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)**

### CBP

*From Page 1*

screening actions in the hopes of limiting and putting an end on the said practice.

"CBP's primary mission is protecting the [U.S.] borders from persons or things that pose a threat to our country, while permitting lawful travel and trade to persons and things that pose no threat," Falcon told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

"CBP is aware the condi-

tional parole poses enforcement challenges for those who attempt to misuse the program for purposes not intended, but also represents unique opportunities for those who wish to travel lawfully to the CNMI as bona fide tourists.

He added the enhanced enforcement done by CBP officers in the CNMI had already resulted to more than 800 removal actions from Oct. 1, 2016 to date of the current fiscal year. The removal actions are for persons attempting to abuse the conditional parole

more than the program's intention.

"This represents [over] 200 cases than the entire full fiscal year prior. CBP is doing its part, and will continue to further enhance its enforcement actions, all while working closely with our investigative partners in [Homeland Security Investigations], the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the United States Attorney [General]."

Falcon said CBP was also critical in the arrest made by their officers on two persons

who were allegedly involved in the Chinese workers' case while they were trying to leave the CNMI.

"CBP is proud of its critical role in arresting the persons recently reported in the media who attempted to depart the CNMI while the current FBI case remains under investigation," added Falcon.

Xiufang Qi and Wencai Guo of Beilida Overseas (CNM) Ltd. were stopped and arrested on April 5 at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport for their alleged

involvement in unlawfully hiring aliens and bringing in and harboring certain aliens.

### Request to meet MCC

Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) last week wrote to House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan requesting that a meeting be arranged between all members of the 20th House of Representatives and officials of MCC International Saipan.

"During a meeting with [CBP] on April 10, I informed them that I will be submitting an officials request to set up a

meeting with MCC International Saipan, a unit of state-owned Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd.," Sablan said in the letter to Demapan.

"The reason for this request is based on numerous unanswered questions from fellow representatives as well as questions that were raised by our constituents in light of recent issues."

It is not yet known what was Demapan's response or what would be the plan of the leadership of the 20th CNMI Legislature.

### PLANE

*From Page 1*

according to Department of Public Safety Commissioner Robert Guerrero on Saturday.

DPS acting spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong said that on Saturday at 1:34pm, police and Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services first responders proceeded to a reported plane crash incident at the golf course.

Tarkong said upon arrival, police learned that the pilot and two passengers were safe.

Tarkong said preliminary information showed that the pilot was required to execute an emergency landing on the golf course.

He said FAA is handling the investigation.

DFEMS spokesman Derek Gersonde said at 1:40pm their medics and rescue units from the Kagman and Susupe fire stations were dispatched to the crash site.

Gersonde said upon arrival,

medics came upon the four-seater "Cessna aircraft" with three individuals, including the pilot.

The pilot refused to be treated by medics, while the 21-year-old passenger complained of head pain. The 20-year-old passenger complained of neck pain.

Gersonde said the two passengers were transported to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room.

Gersonde said the plane took off from the Saipan commuter airport and was touring around Saipan when it performed an emergency landing.

Star Marianas Air Inc. president Shaun R. Christian, in a press release, said pilot Dominise is employed by Star Marianas Air, but the aircraft is owned by Marianas Air Transfer.

Christian said the plane was flying an island sight-seeing flight and the pilot declared an emergency at 1:11pm and landed at the golf course.

Christian said the aircraft was

north of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort when the pilot heard the engine make a loud noise followed by a loss of power.

Dominise declared an emergency with the Saipan Air Traffic Control Tower and informed the controller that he would be making an emergency landing at the golf course.

Christian said there were no injuries as a result of the landing and an inspection conducted in coordination with the NTSB revealed no substantial damage to the plane's structure.

Christian said an initial inspection of the engine did reveal a significant crack on the aircraft's engine block, which is consistent with the pilot's reported experience.

"Since the engine was purchased new from the manufacturer seven months ago, and had more than 70 percent of its useful life remaining, the NTSB has offered to assist in determining what may have caused what is preliminarily being considered a critical manufacturer defect."

Christian said late Saturday afternoon, NTSB released the aircraft to Marianas Air Transfer.

Christian said Star Marianas Air is assisting in getting the plane transported to Tinian, where its maintenance department will work with FAA, NTSB, and the engine manufacturer, to determine what needs to be done to ensure other engines of this type do not encounter a similar defect.

Christian said an NTSB incident response team representative commended Dominise for his quick decision making and his successfully executed emergency landing.

Christian said although Star Marianas Air does participate in the operation of the flight seeing island tours by providing pilots and operational support, the aircraft involved is not owned by Star Marianas Air.

He said the aircraft is also not used by the airline to conduct passenger carrying flights between the islands.

A witness told *Saipan Tribune*

that the plane landed on the fairway in hole No. 5 green west course, ran about 200 yards before it stopped just next to the bushes.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Charity Golf Classic was about to be finished when the incident happened.

A tournament participant said he was about to eat lunch at the hotel's restaurant when he heard some people talking that a plane had just crashed at the golf course.

The golf player, who requested anonymity, said he proceeded to the direction of hole No. 5.

"I was looking for a smoke. But there was none," he said, adding that he then saw the pilot and the two passengers talking to some golf players.

He said an ambulance later came.

The crash-landing left marks on the fairway.

A retired law enforcer, who happened to be at the golf course, said he was impressed with the smart decision and

the skills of the 24-year-old pilot in making a successful crash land at the golf course.

On Nov. 19, 2012, a passenger was killed and six others, including the pilot, were injured when a seven-passenger Piper PA-32 Cherokee Six operated by Star Marianas Air lost power while taking off Saipan airport on its way to Tinian and nose-dived into the trees adjoining the north side of the runway where a fire then ensued. All six passengers were Chinese nationals.

On Oct. 6, 2013, a Piper Aircraft of Star Marianas crashed three miles north of the Tinian International Airport, killing the pilot and two of the six passengers. The four other passengers were injured. The plane was completely destroyed. All passengers were Chinese nationals.

On Aug. 1, 2006, the pilot and six passengers were injured when a Piper Cherokee of Taga Air Charter Services crashed on a farm in upper Dandan en route to Tinian. Except one who is an American, all passengers were Japanese nationals.

mittee under the overall leadership of Rob Bishop (R-Utah).

Torres, before returning to Saipan, will also attend the 22nd Micronesian Islands Forum hosted by Guam from May 1 to 3. Leaders across Micronesia meet annually to discuss the challenges and problems and think of solutions on issues affecting the region.

### TORRES

*From Page 1*

Murkowski's committee will start receiving testimonies on HR 339, Sablan's bill that would increase the CW1 numerical cap to 15,000 workers for fiscal year 2017.

There are only five months left before FY 2017 ends and

United States Citizenship and Immigration Services has already began receiving CW1 applications for FY 2018, which starts on Oct. 1.

The administration said Torres' testimony would be related to previous statements he made to the U.S. House of Representatives and issues discussed during the entire 902 talks that would highlight the

CW1 cap," said the statement.

Torres had made several trips to D.C. in his administration's continued efforts to inform Washington officials about the CNMI's issues and concerns, and push for changes to be made in several federal policies.

Torres met with President Donald Trump and White

House chief of staff Reince Priebus early this month. He also met with Murkowski in D.C. in September last year and testified in the House Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaskan Native Affairs on Sept. 13.

The subcommittee, which was then chaired by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), is under the House Natural Resources Com-

# Liberation Day festivities to be cut short

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA  
kbautista1222@gmail.com  
REPORTER

The newly formed Liberation Day Committee decided during a conference meeting last week that 2017 Liberation Day festivities will be cut short.

Instead of the Liberation Day lasting a month, as the island has been doing for many years, this year's Liberation Day festivities will now only last for 15 days.

A new team was assembled to carry out the Liberation Day festivities because Skywalker Communications Group, which was initially handling the Liberation Day festivities, will no longer be on island to work with the Saipan Mayor's Office in hosting the event this year.

According to the new Liberation Day Committee chair Matt Guerrero it was decided that festivities would be cut short in order to showcase all the local booths that will be a part of the Liberation Day festivities.

The committee came to a decision that there will be 20 booths in total. These 20 booths include food and non-food booths like games. This year, the committee is focusing on keeping the festivities as family based as possible.

Another reason the committee decided to shorten the Liberation Day festivities is because of the venue. According to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang the Liberation Day festivities will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base and coincides with other events that are usually held there like the local street market.

Apatang said operations may start sooner and in order for no conflicts to arise, the Liberation Day Committee decided to cut the festival short.

Apatang is completely on board with the decisions made by the Liberation Day Committee. "I am very satisfied with everything that will be going on from now," said Apatang.

The budget to run the Liberation Day festivities will be at \$200,000. It was not discussed if the budget included the payment for performers or the estimated usage fee that is now enforced by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. CUC, in the previous year, waived the estimated usage fee and

installation fee, according to Parker Yobel, Arts Council executive director, who also helped in the set up of

the 2017 Flame Tree Arts Festival.

As of right now, the committee is still in discussion

and will continue to finalize decisions at their weekly meetings. One thing that is for certain, the Liberation

Day festivities will last only 15 days this year.

The Liberation Day festival will start 14 days before

July 4 or June 20 with Fourth of July being the last day of this year's Liberation Day festivities.

## KIA DRIVES TO SURPRISE



**2017 KIA SOUL**  
Totally transformed  
More fun to drive, more advanced technology, more surprises. We've packed almost everything into the 2017 Soul. Discover what's inside for yourself.

starting at **\$18,995** or **\$134** per paycheck



**2017 KIA RIO**  
FUNctional.™  
Performance without compromise. The 2017 Rio is as fun to look at as it is to drive.

starting at **\$16,995** or **\$120** per paycheck

**Like us on Facebook**

**Joeten Motors** POWERED BY YOU

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON – FRI 8AM-6PM | SAT 8AM-12NOON  
TEL. (670) 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown | Some conditions apply | On approved credit  
See dealer for details | While supplies last. \*EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

**Financing Available as low as 5.40% APR**

2017 KIA RIO LX retail price \$16,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$259.07 or \$119.57 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$15,544.20. 2017 KIA SOUL LX retail price \$18,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 60 monthly payments of \$289.56 or \$133.64 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment \$17,373.60.



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
PUBLIC ASSISTANCE OFFICE, DR-4235-MP  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Caller Box 10007  
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel.: (670) 664-2411/4  
Fax: (670) 664-2408

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
**ITB17-GOV-134 Division of Agriculture**  
**Kagman Facility Repairs**  
**FEMA DR-4235-MP PA PW 32**

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance Program are soliciting sealed bids for the repair of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources Division of Agriculture Kagman Facility located in Kagman, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available April 24, 2017, at the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$100.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment be present when obtaining a project package. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIA) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70-30-3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a mandatory pre-bid conference and site visit for this project on May 15, 2017, at 9:00am ChST at the Kagman Agriculture Station in Kagman, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Patrick C. Guerrero in writing on or before May 10, 2017, to the Public Assistance Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, by email to: [patrickguerrero.pa@gmail.com](mailto:patrickguerrero.pa@gmail.com), or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB17-GOV-134 Division of Agriculture Kagman Facility Repairs**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017, must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail [topprocurement@ficom.com](mailto:topprocurement@ficom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than May 26, 2017, and the bid documents must be received no later than June 9, 2017. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at 9:00 a.m. ChST June 12, 2017. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at 9:00 a.m. ChST May 26, 2017.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

Checks must be payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30-3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 2) Cash
- 3) US Government Securities
- 4) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 5) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 6) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 120 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Governor's Authorized Representative

Virginia C. Villagomez

Herman S. Sablan, Director

Director of Procurement & Supply



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
**Office of the Executive Director**

3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building  
P.O. Box 501220 CK Saipan, MP 96950-1220  
Telephone: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131



**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
**CUC-IFB-17-007**

**CUC FACILITY FENCE REPAIRS**

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the repair of security fences for multiple Saipan water facilities in need of fence repairs due to damage caused by typhoon Soudelor.

**This project is funded by the United States Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).**

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **120 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 13, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-17-007, CUC Facility Fence Repairs"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 28, 2017**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The **Payment and Performance bond** must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

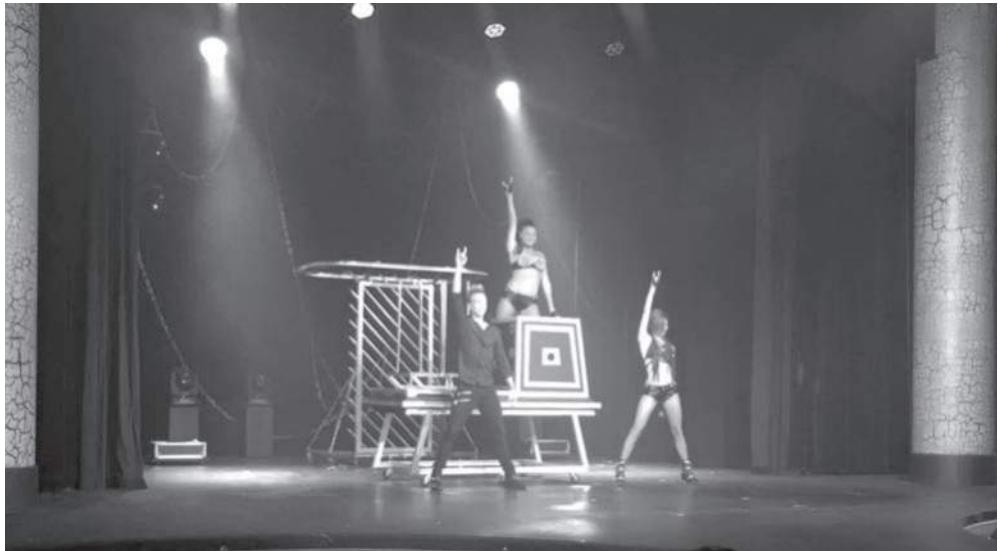
All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 PM (ChST) on April 17, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email [yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator

# SandCastle welcomes new magic act



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

Leon Etienne with two members of his entourage showcased their first stunt at the Hyatt Regency Saipan SandCastle at the VIP party last Thursday.

**By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**

[kbautista1222@gmail.com](mailto:kbautista1222@gmail.com)

REPORTER

The grand opening for SandCastle's newest tourist and local attraction last Thursday night was filled with jaw-dropping illusions and mind-blowing magic tricks.

The Hyatt Regency Saipan's SandCastle is known for its gourmet dinners that feature extraordinary magic shows.

Last Thursday, SandCastle's parent company, the Baldyga Group, hosted a grand opening to introduce to the public its newest entertainer, magician Leon Etienne.

Etienne had the audience at the edge of their seats from all the heart-stopping stunts performed at last Thursday's grand opening.

Etienne made sure that he never lost the attention of his audience, and for the audience, it was hard not to focus their full attention on the entertainer.

Etienne performed card

tricks that resulted in unfathomable outcomes.

He also performed a stunt where he levitated one of the members of his entourage, and he also turned an entourage member into a tiger.

Etienne also shared his favorite stunt at the grand opening. He ran a dozen swords through a box where one of his entourage members was locked in.

The night was filled with unpredictable surprises that caused the entire audience to be left in awe of Etienne and his illusions.

SandCastle director of Entertainment Chuck McCarroll said Etienne is a world-renowned entertainer that specializes in what he does. He delivers nothing but high-energy entertainment.

Because the last entertainer's two-year contract had expired, SandCastle changed their featured show. SandCastle also prefers to change

their featured show every two years, according to McCarroll.

McCarroll was proud to tell the media that the new featured show is much more invigorating than the last. The show is much more energetic, much more magical, according to McCarroll.

According to McCarroll, interested audiences should expect more magic from SandCastle's newest entertainer.

For those interested, the show will be open for audiences every Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and throughout the weekend.

The show runs at a package of \$88 for adults and \$39 for children. A gourmet dinner comes along with this package.

For those interested in the show alone, the package is at \$66 for adults and \$35 for children.

Feel free to call Hyatt Regency Saipan if you are interested in reserving seats for the next performance.

**ROBERT TENORIO TORRES**  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kuya)  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**BANK OF GUAM,** Civil Action No. 16-0100 (R)  
Plaintiff vs. HEARING ON PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR DEFAULT JUDGEMENT  
MURPHY P. REYES, Defendant

## RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind it's **RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS** customers that current billing of accounts are due on or

before **Tuesday, April 25, 2017**. Payments not received by close of business on **April 25** will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00PM on that day.

To prevent temporary suspension, customers are hereby advised to kindly pay their bills on or before **Tuesday, April 25, 2017**. Disputed billings must be brought to IT&E's attention in person or in writing by **Tuesday, April 25**. Customers must pay any current amount due, to avoid disconnection.

If you have questions regarding billing or services please call Customer Service at 682-4ITE (4483) or visit our Customer Service or Business Sales Center – Middle Rd., Gulao Rai office.

To avoid disconnection you may pay your IT&E bill at any location below:

SHELL Service Stations – up to 4:00pm  
Chalan Laulau – up to 5:00pm  
Tinian/Rota Office – up to 4:30pm  
TSL Plaza – up to 6:00pm  
Online payment – up to 9:00pm

**PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE (4483)**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on May 9, 2017, at 1:30 p.m., a hearing will be held before Judge Joseph N. Camacho on Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgement in the above-captioned matter, at the Superior Court in Rota, for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 24th day of February, 2017.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT/DEPUTY CLERK



## Bill to ease land deals introduced

Rep. Vinson F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) introduced a bill that would aid the CNMI with its land transactions, especially the use of public lands. House Bill 20-73 is an act that would amend Title 2, Division 4, Chapter 1 of the Commonwealth Code.

HB 20-73 would insert new sections that would restrict rezoning of public lands until the comprehensive land use plans is completed.

Sablan said the CNMI has seen a rapid growth in development with the entry of new investments in the last couple of years. "We have all seen the increased presence of investors in our island. With this, follows an influx of many types of development."

"It is vital that we are strategic with our land dealings especially on public land. We have seen many requests for certain properties to be rezoned for certain uses. This should not be a common practice in the absence of a strategic land use plan."

Sablan mentioned Section 105 (f) of Public Law 15-2, which transferred the Marianas Public Lands Authority's obligations and responsibilities to the Department of Public Lands.

Section 105 (f) states that

"No later than one year after the Effective Date of this Act (Feb. 22, 2006), [DPL] shall adopt and promulgate a comprehensive land use plan with respect to public lands. During development of the plan, the secretary shall report the substance and the progress of the comprehensive land use plan to the advisory board and regularly keeping them up to date. Before approving the plan, the secretary shall consult with the advisory board..."

Sablan said he had been aware that the request for proposal process had been completed and the comprehensive land use plan is underway. "It is vital that the plan is in place and adopted before we proceed with future public land dealings especially re-zoning of public lands."

"This may contradict the strategic findings in the development of the plan and set us back further in adopting an official land use plan."

HB 20-73 finds the continued rezoning of public lands "would hinder DPL's ability to effectively carry out the intent of their land use plans and inhibit their ability to ensure that public lands will be used for the betterment of the Commonwealth." (Jon Perez)

## At Honda We Care About YOUR SAFETY



### ATTENTION HONDA DRIVERS:

Please be aware that we have a recall under way to repair airbag inflators, **at no cost to you**, in certain Honda vehicles.

If you have a Honda vehicle that is within the year range listed below, please contact us to see if your vehicle needs immediate attention.

**Thank you from the Honda Family.**

#### CONTACT INFORMATION

JOETEN MOTOR COMPANY  
P.O. Box 500680, Saipan MP 96950

#### CALL

(670) 234-5562-68

#### EMAIL

cdyamagishi@joetenmotors.com  
ana\_s@joetenmotors.com

#### VISIT

www.joetenmotors.com

Find us on

#### HOURS OF OPERATION

MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	SATURDAY 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
--------------------------------------	--------------------------------



Airbag deployment with inflator rupture\*

**SAFETY**  
AIRBAG INFLATOR RECALL

**CERTAIN AFFECTED MODELS**  
**2001-2015**

# YOU'RE HIRED!



**CAREER FAIR**  
**APRIL 27, 2017**

**9AM-12PM SAIPAN WORLD RESORT**

Attend NMC's Career Fair and you might just meet your next employer. The Career Fair will feature more than 40 businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations who are looking to hire!

For Career Fair details, visit [marianas.edu](http://marianas.edu).

# First Sakman voyage from Guam in 200 years

By ERWIN ENCINARES  
erwin\_encinaires@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Chamorro Sakman arrived on Saipan shores last Friday, but the welcoming ceremony of the first voyage from Guam in 200 years using a traditional Chamorro canoe was held yesterday, during the last day of the 36th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Master traditional navigator Tony Piailug, accompanied by Sesario Sewralur, Ben "Guelo" Rosario of Guam, and Piailug's student navigators comprised the crewmembers for the historic voyage.

Once on land, Piailug explained to *Saipan Tribune* the significance of the voyage.

"This is what we are. In the ancient times, we did not have all these fancy things we have right now. We only had sailing. We lived off of local food from local ground and the nearby local waters," he said.

Piailug wishes to return to traditional Chamorro roots—a wish that is shared with Rosario. Rosario was nicknamed "Guelo" on Guam and has been advocating for the revival and retention of traditional Chamorro practices on Guam.

Rosario has been a resident of Guam for 12 years but is originally from Rota.

"We have lots of 'missions' [in Guam]—we have slingstones, canoe carving, hut-building, and celestial navigation," said Rosario, referring to the many lessons he offers on Guam.

Government officials that attended the welcoming ceremony yesterday felt blessed



and emotional after seeing the traditional Chamorro Sakman from a distance.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres told members of the media how blessed he was to have witnessed something of great historic significance to the islands he serves. According to Torres,

a canoe for Saipan, along with a canoe program, is on its way. "We have funding, \$200,000, to build our own canoe here. We are in the process of making this a reality," said Torres.

"We are going to put more funding into our culture; both into the canoe and into the music industry of the culture," he added.

Torres mentioned that by the

end of 2017, "we would have a good foundation of where to go from there," even mentioning his desire to make the Sakman voyage something of an annual attraction for the islands.

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter couldn't help but get emotional upon the sight of the traditional Chamorro Sakman.

"Anytime I see a traditional canoe sailing, I tear up and end up having to fight [back the tears]. My grandfather is from Ulithi, an outer island of Yap. For me, [the sight] is moving," he said.

Like Torres, Hunter wishes to see the Sakman welcom-



ERWIN ENCINARES  
Ben "Guelo" Rosario, a resident of Guam who is originally from Rota, signs the CNMI flag as one of the crewmembers of the historic Chamorro Sakman voyage from Guam to Saipan, a voyage that has not been done since the last 200 years.

ERWIN ENCINARES  
The historic Chamorro welcoming ceremony of the traditional Chamorro Sakman was well attended by members of the community. The last Chamorro Sakman's voyage was about 200 years ago.

ing ceremony as an annual event. According to Hunter, there have been numerous voyages from other Micronesian islands in the past, but one problem seems to remain a constant hindrance—coordination. Hunter hopes that the canoe program that is recently in the works would help alleviate the problem.

"It is a little complex to coordinate because we are dealing with people from outer islands such as Yap, Chuuk, and all these places to try and get them to meet on some small island and sail in at just the right time," said Hunter.

"[Now that we have a canoe program], it'll be a more regular fixture at these cultural activities and festivals."

Office of Indigenous Affairs executive director Roman Tudela Jr. believes the historic voyage could be the start of something bigger.

"There are a lot of organizations that are [associated] with traditional canoes. You're going to be seeing a lot [of canoes] in the future; this is a good start," he said.

Tudela hopes that through this historic voyage, the CNMI could start traditional navigational schools that teach students celestial navigation, same as the navigation ancient Chamorros used to utilize in the past.

## COMMONWEALTH LOTTERY COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

A Special Meeting of the Commonwealth Lottery Commission will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at the Juan Sablan Memorial Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. The public is invited to attend.

The following is the proposed agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
- V. Adoption of Minutes
- VI. New Business
  - A. Discussion on proposed amendments to exclusive casino license on the following items
    - a. The Live Training Facility 6 months extension
    - b. Initial Gaming Facility (IGF)
    - c. Community Benefit Fund
    - d. Implementation Schedules
    - e. Casino License Fee
- VII. Executive Session
- VIII. Adjournment

For further information, please contact the Lottery Commission by telephone through the Office of the Finance Secretary at 664-1100.

## BOARD OF REGENTS NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017  
Time: 10:00a.m.  
Venue: Board Regents Conference Room  
Saipan Campus

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. **CALL TO ORDER**
  - a. Roll Call
  - b. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** Individuals may orally testify on items on the agenda during the Public Comment Period. Written testimony is also accepted. Oral testimonies are limited to five (5) minutes.
- III. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - a. BOR Resolution No. 2017-01: To update Bank Signatures
  - b. Corporate Account Resolution Update
- IV. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (At any time during the scheduled meeting of the Board, Regents may be required to enter into executive session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential)
  - a. Legal Matters
  - b. Personnel Matters
- V. **ADJOURNMENT**

/s/ Regent Michael Norita Evangelista  
BOR Chairman

Date: April 25, 2017

## Commonwealth Zoning Special Board Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 27, 2017  
5:00 PM, Zoning Board Conference Room  
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • [www.zoning.gov.mp](http://www.zoning.gov.mp)

- A. **Preliminary Matters**
  - 1. Call to Order
  - 2. Roll Call
  - 3. Adoption of Agenda
  - 4. Adoption of 4/12/17 meeting minutes
  - 5. Public Comments
- B. **New Business**
  - 1. Proposed text and map amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013
- C. **Miscellaneous**
  - a. Other Matters
  - b. Announcements
  - c. Next Meeting
- D. **Adjourn**

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

# Jobseekers invited to NMC's Career Fair on April 27

Northern Marianas College is inviting all jobseekers or those looking to make career changes to attend its annual Career Fair where 50 companies and

organizations will be looking to hire.

The Career Fair will be held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, at the Saipan World Resort,

Royal Taga Ballroom, from 9am to 12pm.

The companies and organizations who have confirmed to be at the Fair 500 Sails; Ajisen Raman / IHOP; Kanoa Resort; Atkins Kroll Saipan; Century Tours; CGC- Systems of Care; CHA: Cha Café & Bakery; Civil Service Commission-OPM; CNMI Public School System (multiple departments); Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.; Commonwealth Utilities Corp.; Department of Labor-WIA; DFS Saipan Limited; Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan; Hard Rock Café Saipan; Hyatt Regency Saipan; Imperial Pacific International-Best Sunshine; Island Training Solutions; IT&E; J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.; Kalayaan, Inc.; Kan Pacific

Saipan; Kensington Hotel; Marianas Medical Center; Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc.; Marianas Variety; Northern Marianas College; NO KA OI Termite and Pest Control; Northern Marianas Trades Institute; Office of Vocational Rehabilitation; Pacific Islands Club Saipan; Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.; POI Aviation; Quality Water Laboratory; Saipan Computer Services, Inc.; Saipan Tours; SHEFA; Sorensen Media

Group; Transcend IT Solutions; Triple J Saipan, Inc.; U.S. Customs & Border Protection; and World Resort.

Those who plan on attending the Career Fair are encouraged to dress appropriately as if they would for an actual job interview, since some employers may be interviewing applicants on the spot. Attendees should also bring copies of their resume to hand out at the Fair.

To prepare NMC students for the Career Fair and for

the realities of job hunting, the college's Career Center has organized several career preparation workshops that are also free and open to the public. The workshops include resume writing, mock interviews, and how to dress properly for an interview. Attending these workshops are not a requirement for those who want to attend the Career Fair.

To find out more about the Career Fair, contact Neda Deleon Guerrero at 237-6759 or email [neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu](mailto:neda.dlguerrero@marianas.edu) or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)



## CONGRATULATIONS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Congratulations Lt. Joaquin "Kindu" Chong Muna from finishing IBOLC at Ft. Benning, Georgia. We are so proud of you. From: Mom, Dad, Michaelle, Tom, Jen, Jarrod, and your wife, Nakita.

## Hong Ye, CUC, Docomo cause cable damage to IT&E

Last week, three agencies caused damage to several pairs of cable in San Roque, Oleai, and Chalan Kanoa.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. damaged 25 pairs of cable in the San Roque area last Tuesday affecting residential landlines and internet services.

Contractor Hong Ye then caused a total of 300 pairs of cable damage in front of

Payless Shoe Source affecting landline and internet for businesses and residential customers.

Thirdly, Chalan Kanoa residents and surrounding areas experienced interruptions in their landline and internet services caused by Docomo Pacific damaging IT&E's fiber cable.

IT&E has isolated the issues and would like to apologize for

the temporary outages caused by contractors last week. The public and all contractors are reminded that they are required to contact IT&E seven days before any digging activity so that IT&E cables can be properly marked to prevent these outages and inconveniences to our customers.

Affected customers are being asked to inform CallCenterLeads@itehq.net. (IT&E)



**TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC.**  
is now accepting applications  
for experienced:

## BAKER

## FOR IMMEDIATE HIRE

Must have a baking and pastry degree or its equivalent as well as 4 years management experience in a bakery. In addition, should be able to produce quality breads and pastry, be creative and train personnel in the bakery.

**OFFERS COMPETITIVE SALARY AND BENEFITS.**

**Apply online at:**

[www.triplejsaipan.com/employment-application/](http://www.triplejsaipan.com/employment-application/)

**Triple J is an Equal Opportunity Employer.**

F H B . C O M / Y E S

## Take the leap before these rates do.



### BUSINESS FIRSTLINE<sup>SM</sup> OF CREDIT

**3.99%**  
APR<sup>1</sup>

#### 1-Year Fixed

- Cover payroll, seasonal inventory
- Annual fee waived for the first year

 First Hawaiian Bank.  
IT ALL STARTS WITH YES

Gualo Rai Branch, Gualo Rai Commercial Center, Middle Road  
Tel: (670) 235-3090 Fax: (670) 235-3094  
Oleai Branch, Oleai Center, Beach Road Chalan Laulau  
Tel: (670) 234-6559 Fax: (670) 236-8936



Member FDIC

**4.49%**  
APR<sup>2</sup>

- Purchase equipment or vehicles
- Partially secured

1 Business FirstLine Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is fixed for 1 year. Thereafter, the rate will change to an adjustable rate equal to First Hawaiian Bank's Prime Rate plus 2 to 6 percentage points. Current Prime Rate is 4.25% in Guam and CNMI as of 3/1/17. Subject to credit approval and certain restrictions apply. Annual fee waived for the first year. Annual fee waived after the first year when you maintain a \$5,000 average balance on your line during the prior 12 months. Otherwise, the annual fee is \$50 per year. \$200 Documentation Preparation Fee is waived. Priority Banking discounts do not apply.

2 Business FirstTerm APR of 4.49% is for partially secured business loans up to \$75,000 with terms up to 60 months. Rate is effective 3/1/17 through 4/30/17, and is for certain loan amounts and terms. Other rates and terms are available. Subject to credit approval and other restrictions apply. \$200 Documentation Preparation Fee is waived. Existing First Hawaiian Bank Business FirstLines of Credit and Business FirstTerm loans do not qualify for the promotion.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXVII, Issue No. 80

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Trump's Kenosha doctrine is good for America

**A**re you an American with expertise in computer programming, engineering or business analytics? If so, you probably have a good job, because employers gobble up all the high-tech talent they can find. In fact, there's a shortage of qualified candidates for many specialized fields, which hampers American enterprises. That's why the U.S. government allows companies to hire high-skilled foreign workers through the H-1B visa program.

This valuable program requires a global mindset to appreciate — it's the opposite of the America First" slogan engineering President Donald Trump often favors. But we're glad to see that as the president considers immigration changes, including ridiculous ideas like getting Mexico to pay for a big wall, he isn't pushing to eliminate H-1B visas. He said while visiting Kenosha, Wis., this week that he wants to keep the foreign talent pipeline open while making some fixes that should help more Americans get into these professions. That seems like a good, balanced approach.

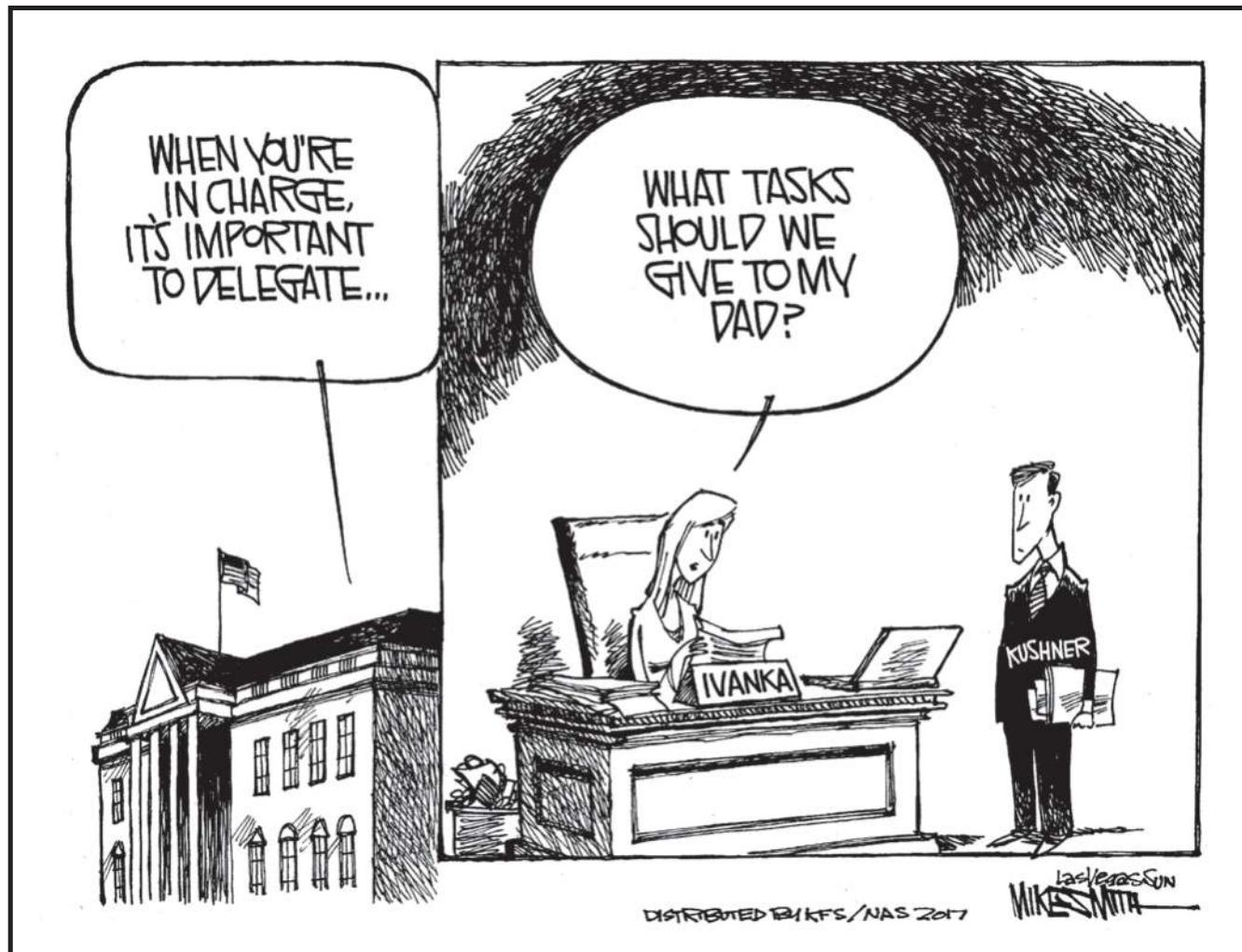
Most jobs in the U.S. are available only to legal residents, of course, but the H-1B program provides 85,000 visas a year to skilled foreigners in tech and other specialties. The three-year visas, sponsored by an employer and renewable once, go like hotcakes. They are distributed via lottery, with about 199,000 applications received this year. The number's down from 236,000 last year, likely because some foreigners are wary of Trump's immigration rhetoric.

These visas are intended for use by employers when they can't find a qualified U.S. worker to hire. Ideally, the American education system would churn out enough qualified graduates in the science-technology-engineering-math realm to fill every possible job slot. Why that's not the case is a conversation for another day. But even if it were so, there's reason to give employers opportunities to hire a certain number of exceptional foreigners who bring unique abilities to the table. Many are graduates of American universities and should be encouraged to stay and contribute to the U.S. economy instead of taking their talents home to Shanghai or Mumbai.

Criticism of H-1B allotment focuses on the fact that it skews toward positions at the cheaper end of the talent pool. A big user of the program is the tech outsourcing industry, which places lots of workers from India in U.S. jobs paying near the \$60,000 minimum for H-1B visa holders. The practice got attention after IT workers at Walt Disney World claimed they were forced to train foreign replacement workers who would earn less than they had.

In Kenosha, Trump said the H-1B program "should include only the most skilled and highest-paid applicants and should never, ever be used to replace American workers." He signed an executive order directing his administration to review the program to cut down on abuses and protect citizens.

See TRUMP'S on Next Page



### Let's focus on nukes, not tax returns

**I** don't really care what's in President Donald Trump's tax returns.

Sure, I think Trump shows real contempt for citizens and good government by refusing to do what all recent presidents have done without a fuss. And yes, his refusal is another neon sign advertising a menu of character and ethical deficits. But we already know Trump is rich, so who cares if he is richer or poorer than we think? We already know the tax tricks real estate developers and the 1 percent use, so who cares about the details?

Trump's tax returns are a third-tier flap at a moment fraught with urgent, first-tier issues.

Yet it was Trump's tax returns that brought protesters out all across the country the other day. Activism like that is a great thing. But that energy would be better used if put toward a greater cause — and there are many.

It is Trump's refusal to release his tax forms that Democrats hold up as the prime reason they cannot and will not participate in negotiations about tax reform. They argue that it would be wrong to proceed without knowing how legislation might further enrich Trump, his family and empire.

Well I have news: There are many worse problems on the docket than Donald Trump getting richer in sleazy ways. That would be a high moral crime indeed but it's trivial compared to missile strikes, games of nuclear chicken and sabotaging health insurance systems.

Americans know this and polling makes clear that they care more about those matters than Trump's taxes, Ivanka's brand and Jared's real estate holdings. And those Trump voters who have become wobbly in their support certainly don't care about that stuff — they never have. Trump's opponents would do better to focus on meatier matters.

Trump now has a record, albeit short, as president of the United States. He has taken important actions and made decisions that could have real consequences. But the citizen opposition, professional party opposition and the press, I fear, are trying to steer too much of our diminishing national attention span on third-tier issues like Trump's tax returns.

Exhibit A: The missile strikes on a Syrian airfield after Syria allegedly used chemical weapons on civilians. The strikes took place on April 6, just a couple weeks ago, and they are basically out of the news now. But many crucial unanswered questions remain.

Did the strikes significantly diminish Syria's capacity to use chemical weapons or commit other war crimes? (The answer seems to be no.) Trump said he was moved by videos of stricken

**By DICK MEYER**

Scripps Washington Bureau

Dick Meyer is chief Washington correspondent for the Scripps Washington Bureau and DecodedC (www.decodedc.com). Readers can email Meyer at [dickmeyer.dc@scripps.com](mailto:dickmeyer.dc@scripps.com)



children: Do we know how many Syrian children have died from conventional arms recently? Or how many Syrian children died in refugee camps? Or why Trump's policy is to avenge some children's killings but not others?

We know that Russia says it is outraged by the strikes. Is it really? We know that in March there were 1,755 alleged civilian deaths from coalition airstrikes in Syria and Iraq, many times more than any prior period in Operation Inherent Resolve, the name of our Islamic State-focused military interventions. Will we continue to allow so many civilian casualties?

Exhibit B: A few days after the U.S. missile attack on Syria, the Trump administration sent another message of military might to another dangerous nemesis, North Korea. "We're sending an armada," Trump said to Fox News, meaning the aircraft carrier Carl Vinson and escort vessels. Fears of war and nuclear weapons erupted in South Korea. Trump followed up with a bellicose tweet, "North Korea is looking for trouble. If China decides to help, that would be great. If not, we will solve the problem without them! U.S.A."

Now we have learned the armada was actually sailing in the opposite direction, heading to military exercises with the Australian navy 3,500 miles away from Korea in the Indian Ocean.

Was this colossal and dangerous blunder of Trump's own making, or was it the Navy's fault? What credibility can the president have when he acts and tweets in such a cavalier manner even when the core issue is nuclear war?

These are questions about high stakes actions taken by President Trump, not about his past, his fortune or his business dealings. They are more important.

There is a vast and dire credibility drought in American politics.

The press, the Democrats and anti-Trump activists squander what little authority they have left when there is too much focus on the lesser issues of the day, even if they're ones that can generate better theater and tweets.

All the world is not a stage.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Free speech now an endangered species on college campuses

I've been asked to speak at various locations for various occasions in the past. I spoke at Philadelphia's Independence Hall in 2009 when the tea party had a rally. I've been a panelist for the Philadelphia Bar Association discussing the media and O.J. Simpson. I've gone to the state Capitol to testify about gun violence and the link with mental illness. I've spoken at churches, in Spanish and French, trying to keep immigrants from panicking about President Trump's executive orders.

What can I say: I'm an Italian-Irish lady with lots of opinions. I'm amazed that people are willing to listen to them (they don't pay, but still).

What I can't manage to do is get a speaking gig at my alma mater and its brother school. I graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 1983, when it was still safe to be a moderate, which I was at the time. Going to Bryn Mawr was a wonderful experience that exposed me to different viewpoints and value systems, and it gave me the courage to come out, so to speak, as a real conservative by the time I put on my graduation robe. While at Bryn Mawr, I spent a lot of time on Haverford's campus, so I feel in some ways an alum of that leafy, lovely campus too.

You can imagine, then, how happy I was to hear from a member of an organization called No Labels in November that they wanted me to come and talk to the community about my life, my writing, my politics, and whatever else might have come up during the discussion. I was told they needed to do some planning, which I suppose was a polite way of saying, "We need to make sure the liberal students don't come for you with flaming torches." That was fine, and I waited to hear back.

After a few weeks, I got a text saying that because it was the end of term, they'd put it off until the next semester. Sounded fine to me.

I expected to hear something in January, and there was silence. I expected to hear something in February, too, but the crickets sang a lovely version of Handel's "Messiah." Finally, after I mentioned something on Facebook about the aborted attempt to speak at my alma mater, I got a text apologizing for the long delay and promising that someone would be in touch shortly.

About a week later, I got a text saying No Labels was meeting that evening and would get back to me with dates later that night or the next day.

That was three weeks ago.

I texted the organizer in one last attempt to see whether this was a real person or one of those robots that take and send messages and got a text saying, essentially, sorry, but no. I have now resigned myself to the fact that Bryn Mawr and Haverford do not want to hear what I have to say.

I could attribute this to a variety of reasons, including that

## TRUMP'S

From Page 10

The right way to look at the program is to be mercenary about it: These visas exist to boost the U.S. economy. So sure, make some slots available for IT outsourcing jobs because some U.S. companies need those services. But those lower-paying positions should be made scarcer and more expensive to fill, in order to prod employers to hire and train Americans. The priority should be on giving visas to advanced-degree holders and other specialists earning higher pay because they will make the greatest contributions. The retooled program should also make sure smaller firms, including startups, have a chance to participate. There's legislation floating around Congress with bipartisan support already pointing in the right direction. Trump's order, based on the same logic, is smart policy.

The existence of the H-1B visa program is a reminder that there's a world of talent out there. The global economy is competitive. Let's make sure the best of that brainpower has opportunities to work in the United States.

I'm really not that interesting, famous or tall enough to be seen easily above the lectern. All of these are true.

However, given what has been happening on college campuses lately, I wouldn't be surprised that No Labels does in fact have one label in its top drawer, which includes the message: "No Conservatives Allowed." I'm not picking on these colleges, mind you. Bryn Mawr and Haverford are not the only ones that have slid into this valley where the only type of dissent allowed is the type that doesn't offend, anger, trouble or delegitimize anyone. That type of dissent is usually called, "Shut up; I don't want to hear what you have to say."

At Pomona College in California, students of "color," whatever that means these days, claimed that the truth was really a tool of "white supremacy." They pushed to have conservative commentators at the Claremont Independent, a campus publication, sanctioned. They have the gall to demand this.

This makes sense, because so many people of "color" want to feel comfortable in their happy places, like Black Lives Matter meetings where people without "color" (like me, apparently) are barred from participating. The next logical step is to punish people who disagree with them, conservatives who have the audacity to dissent from the liberal, borderline communist view of the world.

And then, there were the protests at Berkeley, where a riot broke out when conservative firebrand Milo Yannopoulos was prevented from speaking, and where Ann Coulter originally was told she couldn't appear because the school is not sure it can ensure her safety, before officials changed their minds. Coulter rejected the rescheduled date, noting that the new date occurs when classes are not in session.

As an aside, I doubt school officials really care whether Ann is crushed under a replica of one of those May Day tanks that

### LITERARY-NOOK

## National Poetry Month

By JOEY 'PEPE' BATBON' CONNOLLY

SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

### Shall I Compare You to a Spring Day

(Inspiration from Shakespeare's sonnet 18,  
Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day)

Shall I compare you to an early day in Spring  
your brain develops with the freshening green  
Ides of March help the sudden garden mind sing  
our love moves from sprouts to flower in our bean  
during Spring due to bouts of new love and new rain  
rivers and eyes of tears overflow their banks  
levees and lovers feel the pressure and the strain  
drought stricken farms and couples give thanks  
your spring shows in your lively step and your lip  
as over love's muddy ground you keep walking  
in clear consciousness winter is given the slip  
love takes the lead with gossip and talking  
as love's steady Spring rains melt the winter snow  
my love for you takes roots and continues to grow

### A Breath of Death

(My senior citizen spin on Shakespeare's sonnet 73)

I behold my time of death in some eternal cold  
limbs lame, knees shot, fingers gnarled and froze  
most of my songs sung, teenage tales all told  
requiem for my frame cawed by a murder of crows  
on sea cliffs I welcome the coming of night  
watch the moon slowly rise in the east  
and darkness as the moon slips out of sight  
no worries about eternal night in the least

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS  
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at [cflowers1961@gmail.com](mailto:cflowers1961@gmail.com).



used to roll through Moscow during the Soviet heydays, but it's nice to think they actually have a tender side.

And of course, we can't forget the teacher who was physically assaulted by the little darlings at Middlebury, who were protesting the appearance of Charles Murray.

No, our folk out here are much tamer. Bryn Mawr and Haverford would not expose me to physical danger, they just don't want to hear what I have to say about unborn babies, stupid little pink crochet hats, same-sex marriage (they really don't want to hear that) and sexual harassment, a la Bill O'Reilly. They might enjoy my comments about immigration, but it would be too much to digest that along with the rest of the bitter brew. So, I'm thinking, they've just decided to opt out.

These are the things that make me glad I actually went to college at a time when people could annoy you, enrage you, excite you and, with that, inspire you.

Now, you're more likely to get a concussion than conversation, more likely to be threatened than intellectually challenged, more likely to be bloodied than informed.

I guess I'll stick to pro-life rallies, where the human casualties haven't been born yet.

what is left of my tropical life is glowing coals  
a low tangantangan fire of burning embers  
now its heaven or hell and roasting souls  
Thanksgiving has life way beyond Novembers  
going for good now old age saps life and strength  
my love for all that lives will stay the length

### Earth Days Before We Were Born

I did not see all of the thoughtless events  
that lead us up to the moment where we are  
but using everyday basic common sense  
we don't need to look back in the past very far  
maybe a hundred years before our parents were born  
we began serious pollution of the waters and the sky  
as farther and farther from the Earth we were torn  
few earthlings stopped to pause and wonder why  
I did not hear of all the tragic man made events  
that slowly diminished the quality of our daily life  
yet entire countries continue on in a manner most dense  
little disturbed by the Earth's present daily strife- but  
there is light in the darkness and clean water in the bay  
as people help the Earth by celebrating Earth Day

### Thallasophobia—Fear of Oceans

From the tempest a terrible torrent  
overflowing the banks of every seaside stream  
flotsam and jetsam mix with the current  
omnipotent in my evil ocean dream  
fishing boats ripped helter skelter from the quay  
smashed and broken scattered along the reef  
stinking fish floating out in the bay  
silently pulled out by a high tidal thief  
thank Neptune there are no rotting sperm whales  
oil spills in shrimp and oyster beds blacken the coral  
perhaps it is calm enough to hoist the foreails  
time to heave away from the coastal arboreal  
with more care for and respect for time and devotion  
let's live without fear and in synergy with our oceans

# The Weather

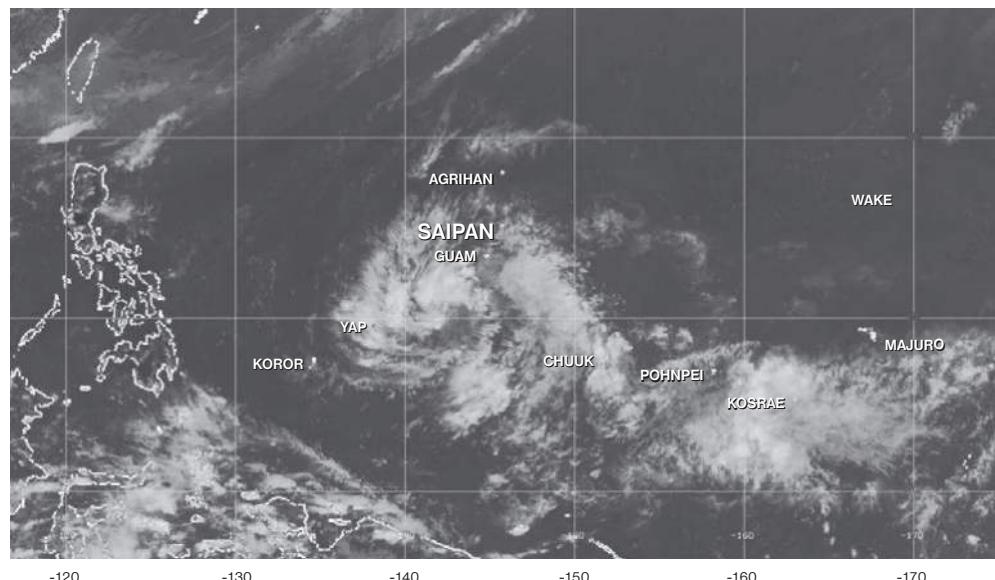
## 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Thunderstorms.	Variably cloudy with scattered thunderstorms.	Mixed clouds and sun with scattered thunderstorms.	Variable clouds with scattered thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy skies early giving way to a few showers after midnight.

▲ 84°	▼ 78°	▲ 85°	▼ 78°	▲ 85°	▼ 77°	▲ 86°	▼ 79°	▲ 86°	▼ 78°
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

## YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



## PICTURE TIME: 5:29 AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 2017

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Model guidance is in good agreement with the tracking and development of the tropical disturbance to the south of Guam. All of the models show an abundance of showers over the Marianas for the next few days, with scattered showers developing initially over Guam, then spreading northward to Saipan. A few lightning strikes were detected over night over the western Guam waters and as the instability increases, expect to see more thunderstorms develop over the area. Although shower coverage is expected to decrease to isolated by Tuesday morning, an overall unsettled pattern is likely through most of the week. Coastal waters will see combined seas remaining around 4 to 6 feet the next couple of days, then a slow fall beginning around midweek.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86°	/	78°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	84°	/	78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84°	/	79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	84°	/	79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85°	/	80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Showers	66°	/	55°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	72°	/	48°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	81°	/	77°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	73°
London	Showers	57°	/	39°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77°	/	59°
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93°	/	79°
Melbourne	Rain	64°	/	48°
Miami	Thunderstorms	85°	/	67°
New York	Partly Cloudy	64°	/	48°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	72°	/	57°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	66°	/	43°
Pusan	Cloudy	66°	/	54°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	70°	/	52°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	77°	/	53°
San Francisco	Windy	69°	/	37°
Seoul	Rain	69°	/	37°
Tokyo	Windy	66°	/	59°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	67°	/	50°



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:  
 ■ Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone  
 ■ \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone  
 ■ Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
5:59 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.97
8:56 AM	LOW TIDE	0.43
6:14 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.84
-	-	-

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:02 AM	4:22 PM	-
Tuesday	4:49 AM	5:20 PM	-
Wednesday	5:37 AM	6:20 PM	-
Thursday	6:28 PM	7:22 PM	-
Friday	7:22 AM	8:26 PM	-

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235-3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website: [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

**CUSTOMER SERVICE** For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

**ADVERTISING** For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: [sales@saipantribune.com](mailto:sales@saipantribune.com)

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily	UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota	UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6	UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily	UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily	UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily	DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily	LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily	TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7	7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7	OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5	7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4
SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)				JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN			
7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7	7C3434	1		

# Imperial Pacific joins 1000 tree initiative



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Imperial Pacific International's Corporate Social Responsibility team puts together an art gallery at the 2017 Flame Tree Arts Festival to display the photos of their previous photo contest winners.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Minerva Managhoy stops by the CSR booth to claim a few trees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local business owner Luz Buccat was happy to take home a palm tree and a fern.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Entrepreneur Gary Little picked up a flame tree to bring to his new home on Rota.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Sophie Matagolai came by and picked up a palm tree and the last of the da'ok trees.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Local artist Toki Mojica managed to pick up a few trees that she liked.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A family is all smiles after picking out their very own plumeria plant.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

To honor Earth Day, the IPI-CSR team launched their 1000 Tree Initiative and gave out a variety of trees at their booth at the 2017 Flame Tree Arts Festival.

PHOTO BY JEFFREY L. BROWN

# Business

## Trump sons take helm of company, eye domestic expansion

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Apprentices no more, Eric and Donald Trump Jr. are now at the helm of the Trump Organization and adjusting to the reality presented by their father's presidency. They're eyeing ways to use the new lease on the family fame by expanding the brand into parts of the United States that embrace him.

Some business has slowed as a result of the pledge to stall international dealmaking while Trump is president. But a U.S. push is planned, and two new hotel chains are being considered—a four-star brand and a less luxurious line—possibly in states where Trump triumphed over Democrat Hillary Clinton last November.

"I think it makes it naturally easier if you're going into a place that's not adversarial to you," Donald Trump Jr. said in a recent interview.

The Trump Organization is a private, family-run business that owns billions of dollars' worth of hotels, office buildings, golf courses and management and licensing agreements. Although foreign deals are on hold, the company will complete existing projects, including ones in India, the United Arab Emirates and the Dominican Republic.

Because overseas markets have been hotter for the Trump



In this July 19, 2016, file photo, Donald Trump, Jr., son of President Donald Trump, speaks during the second day of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland. AP

### American tries to learn from United's mistakes in incident

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Another day, another cellphone video of a conflict on an airplane.

American Airlines said it grounded a flight attendant who got into a verbal confrontation with a passenger on a Friday flight from San Francisco to Dallas-Fort Worth.

Spokeswoman Leslie Scott says the airline is looking into whether the male flight attendant violently took away a stroller from the female passenger just before she boarded a Friday flight from San Francisco to Dallas. He has been removed from duty in the meantime.

In an age of cellphone videos and social media, airlines are learning the hard way that it is essential to deescalate tense situations that occur during air travel, even as there are more passengers, less room and fewer flight attendants than ever before.

The incident comes less than two weeks after video of a man being violently dragged off a United Express flight sparked widespread outrage.

United initially blamed its passenger, Dr. David Dao, be-

fore finally apologizing days after the incident, fanning the public's fury.

American, by contrast, seems to have learned from United's mistakes: it immediately said it was sorry, that it had grounded the flight attendant while it investigates the incident, and that it had upgraded the passenger involved and her family to first class.

"American doesn't want to become the next United, but then, United didn't want to become the next United," said Henry Harteveldt, travel industry analyst at Atmosphere Research Group. "No airline wants to be seen as being anti-consumer or anti-passenger."

Smartphone cameras and social media are shifting power to consumers who can share customer relations gaffes with the world. They're increasingly making confrontations with customer-facing staff headline news, making it harder for companies to sweep complaints under the rug. The faster companies own up to mistakes, the quicker they can start to do damage control.

American's fast reaction to the incident could be

helpful, said brand consultant Allen Adamson, CEO of BrandSimple.

Among the possible locations being considered: Texas, parts of the South, and perhaps the nation's capital, where the hotel would exist with the Trump luxury property in the former home of the Old Post Office not far from the White House. The company is also in the very early stages of considering a three-star hotel chain.

Experts said the plan would

not seem to run afoul of any ethics standards, even if the hotels ended up in some of the economically depressed regions whose voters rallied for Trump and may not be able to afford a luxury brand. It would be no different from cashing in on the name of a nonpolitical celebrity, they said.

Similarly, daughter Ivanka Trump has made a pitch for Trump's blue-collar supporters by replacing her high-end

jewelry line with a mass-market brand.

"It would not seem to blur any lines with the presidency," said Kathleen Clark, a law professor at Washington University. She said that while "questions can be raised" about some of the company's behavior, a pitch into Trump-friendly states seems like "a reasonable business strategy."

Any new investment, particularly if it involves foreign funds,

### Global finance leaders grapple with globalization fears

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Global finance leaders on Saturday dropped a sharp condemnation of trade protectionism and references to climate change from a closing statement that wrapped up the spring meetings of the 189-nation International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

This year's meetings were dominated by a debate over how to respond to a rising tide of anti-globalization sentiment evidenced in the United States by the election of President Donald Trump, who pledged during last year's campaign that he would reduce America's huge trade deficits which he blamed for the loss of millions of good-paying factory jobs.

In its communique, the IMF urged nations to avoid "inward-looking policies," but it did not include tougher language the IMF had used in an October statement in which it had called on all countries to "resist all forms of protectionism." The new statement also dropped any mention of the threat of climate change.

Trump has threatened to impose punitive tariffs of up to 45 percent against Mexico, China and other nations he believes are competing unfairly with American workers. During his presidential campaign he called climate change a hoax.

At a closing news conference, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde and Agustín Carstens, head of the Bank of Mexico and chair of the IMF's policy committee, sought to downplay the changes.

Lagarde noted that strong language condemning protectionism and promoting efforts to combat climate change, while taken out of the communique, remained in a separate document setting out the IMF's policy agenda.

Carstens said that it was important on the issue of trade to recognize the viewpoints of different countries.

"We all want free and fair trade and that is what is reflected in the communique," he told reporters when asked why the language on protectionism had been dropped.

He bristled at the idea that his father ran for president to enrich himself or his family, as some critics contended during the campaign.

"It's a complicated procedure that changes the dynamic. There are plenty of deals that two years ago or eight years from now, 'Oh, yeah, you can do this,'" he said. "Today, we have to take that much more seriously. There is an optical component that has to be taken into account."

"He spent \$75 million of his own money to run against 17 incredibly seasoned Republican candidates to then go against Hillary Clinton," Donald Trump Jr. said. "No one in their right mind would do that. That's not a good business model! I get it, it sells papers, it creates headlines. But it's ridiculous."

Donald Trump Jr. said he barely spoke to his father during his first weeks in office. That changed after the younger Trump's 5-year-old son, Tristan, was hurt in a skiing accident.

A similar change on the issue of protectionism was made in a communique that the Group of 20 major economies issued last month in Baden-Baden, Germany. Steven Mnuchin, attending his first international gathering as Trump's Treasury secretary, had defended the change in the G-20 communique by saying, "The historical language was not really relevant."

Eswar Prasad, a trade economist at Cornell University, said the changes in the IMF and G-20 communiqes showed the Trump administration's desire to signal that U.S. policy will be different under a new president.

"The G-20 consensus on issues such as free trade and combating climate change is crumbling in the face of the Trump administration's hostility to those positions," Prasad said. "The notion of allowing for freer trade has run up against the Trump administration's conviction that its major trading partners are manipulating trade and currency policies to their own benefit."

# Nation

## Scams push foreclosure fraud to limit, taking victims' homes

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The phone call came as Raymond Murray neared the bottom of his luck. His wife had died, his career had been ended by injuries, and struggling to get by on his disability check, he had scraped together just enough to pay a lawyer to avoid imminent foreclosure on his modest Brooklyn home.

The man on the phone offered a godsend: The foreclosure could be averted, the legal fees could be eliminated and the monthly mortgage payment he could no longer afford could be trimmed.

Soon, Murray was sitting at a conference room table in the man's office, finalizing the fix he believed would keep him in his home. It didn't take long for the sad truth to become clear: This aging immigrant was scammed out of his home.

Around the U.S., deed theft has emerged as one of the most sophisticated and devastating frauds ever to menace homeowners. Fore-



**AP** Bernard Youngblood, Wayne County Register of Deeds, poses with an old deed registry book in Detroit, Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

closure "rescue" scams that have stolen thousands of dollars from individual home-

owners in the years since the housing collapse have been pushed by savvy perpetrators to their limit. They use lies to convince the desperate to sign over their title, then force them into homelessness or a years-long legal battle.

"The scammers are no longer content with stealing \$5,000. Now they want the whole house," said Dina Levy, who heads the Homeowner Protection Program in the New York attorney general's office, which has spread word about deed theft and prosecuted culprits.

Deed theft has been reported around the U.S., from San Diego, where prosecutors recently netted a guilty plea

and six-year prison sentence for a man involved in deed thefts of at least 15 homes, to Detroit, where the register of deeds hopes to expand his fraud unit to keep up with a crush of cases.

It has been most severe in gentrifying neighborhoods quickest to rebound from the housing crisis, nowhere more so than ever-pricier blocks of New York.

The New York sheriff's office has taken a lead on the cases and since 2014, the office has amassed more than 1,700 complaints, with hundreds under investigation, and some 32 arrests already tallied. Sheriff Joseph Fucito ticks off the ways the thefts happen,

from opportunists cobbling together documents on vacant properties to those transferring the home of an unwitting family member into their name, to fake housing assistance businesses that prey on those in financial crisis.

"You can just wake up," Fucito said, "and it happened on a piece of paper."

Murray came to New York in 1989 from his native Guyana, working as a telephone technician and then a police traffic control agent. He and his wife Desrie, a teacher, lived in a relative's basement, then rented a home before saving enough to buy. It wasn't much—a two-story brick house with a

## Problems remain at troubled Washington hospital

**SEATTLE** (AP)—Inspectors who visited Washington state's largest psychiatric hospital found that safety problems that thrust the facility into the national spotlight after the escape of two dangerous patients a year ago persist, including neglected patients.

And a survey of Western State Hospital staff, conducted as part of federal oversight in December and January, found that administrators make decisions that "adversely affect patient safety" and there was a lack of trained or qualified staff, fear of retaliation from managers and too much focus on bureaucracy over staff safety.

The survey and the consultants' report were obtained by The Associated Press from someone close to the hospital who requested anonymity for fear of retaliation.

State officials say they are making progress, including hiring additional staff members, as they try to turn around the facility since the patients escaped in April 2016. They say correcting problems that have developed over decades will take time to resolve.

Dr. Joseph Wainer, a psychiatrist at the hospital, said the problems continue. He wrote a letter to the editor that recently appeared in the Tacoma, Washington, newspaper in which he alleged that man-

agement at the facility was traumatizing employees and patients.

"I see people who've been told that their perspective is ignorant, who have been ignored, shamed and intimidated into silence by an increasingly authoritarian leadership," he wrote.

Wainer told AP in an email this week that the hospital placed him "under investigation." Wainer said the investigation was "quite frightening" and "I still don't know exactly what they're suggesting I did wrong." Wainer said investigations are often used to "discredit and to intimidate both the person investigated and those who might question contemplating the executive leadership."

Kelly Stowe, a spokeswoman for the health department, said the agency couldn't confirm or deny an investigation because they don't comment on personnel actions. "What I can tell you is that we don't restrict an employee's right to free speech," she said.

A judge recently issued an injunction against the hospital that requires it to address a pattern of retaliation against staffers by the end of April, and also ordered a \$1.1 million award for a case involving a former worker who faced retaliation when he reported patient neglect.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Funeral services held for Ohio victim of Facebook killer

**CLEVELAND** (AP)—Funeral services have been held for a Cleveland retiree whose shooting death was posted on Facebook. Family members on Saturday recalled Robert Godwin Sr. as a loving, gentle person who taught the importance of forgiveness. The 74-year-old Godwin was shot Easter Sunday along a Cleveland street. Gunman Steve Stephens led police on a 2-mile chase in Erie, Pennsylvania, before fatally shooting himself Tuesday. Tonya Godwin-Baines, one of Godwin's 10 children, said the family forgives Stephens. Stephens was a 37-year-old job counselor who worked with young people. Police would not speculate on what

triggered the killing, but in the Facebook video and other footage he posted, Stephens talked about having trouble with his girlfriend and losing everything he had to gambling.

#### Authorities drop 33 cases against Dakota Access protesters

**BISMARCK, N.D.** (AP)—Authorities dropped nearly three dozen cases last month that stemmed from arrests of protesters against the Dakota Access crude oil pipeline, court records show. The Bismarck Tribune reported Saturday (<http://bit.ly/2ofXsTp>) that prosecutors and judges dropped the 33 misdemeanor cases while another 14 were resolved by guilty pleas. Most of the cases dropped last month related to criminal

trespass charges from the late summer and fall. Prosecutors struggled to prove those charges before Judge Allan Schmalenberger, who ruled in multiple cases that the Morton County State's Attorney office had failed to meet its burden of proving that protesters were given proper notice that they were on private land, either with signs or verbal warnings.

#### UC Berkeley students threaten to sue over Ann Coulter visit

**BERKELEY, Calif.** (AP)—The University of California at Berkeley students who invited Ann Coulter to speak on campus are threatening to sue the university if it doesn't find a proper time and venue for the conservative pundit to speak next week. Harmet

Dhillon, who represents the Berkeley College Republicans, said in letters sent Friday to UC Berkeley's Interim Vice Chancellor Stephen Sutton and chief attorney Christopher Patti that if Coulter is not allowed to give a speech on campus on April 27 she will file a lawsuit in federal court because the university is violating the students' constitutional right to free speech. "It is a sad day indeed when the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement, is morphing before our eyes into the cemetery of free speech on college campuses," wrote Dhillon, a committeewoman to the Republican National Convention for California and former vice chairwoman of the California Republican Party.

# Asia



AP  
Philippine troops march as a Philippine Air Force C-130 transport plane carrying Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, Armed Forces Chief Gen. Eduardo Ano and other officials, sits on the tarmac at the Philippine-claimed Thitu Island off the disputed Spratlys chain of islands in the South China Sea Friday, April 21, 2017 in western Philippines.

## China tries to drive away planes with top Filipino officials

**PAG-ASA ISLAND, South China Sea (AP)**—Chinese forces tried to drive away two Philippine planes carrying Manila's defense and military chiefs Friday near a Chinese man-made island, officials said, adding they admired seeing up close the stunning city-like features, including buildings, roads and a runway in the South China Sea's hotly contested region.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the aircraft continued uninterrupted after Filipino pilots messaged back to the Chinese that they were flying over Philippine territory. The Chinese warned the Philippine aircraft they were entering the periphery of Chinese installations and told to avoid miscalculation.

The aircraft that took Lorenzana, military chief of staff Gen. Eduardo Ano and

about 40 journalists to Philippine-occupied Pag-asa Island were "challenged" by China as they flew in the vicinity of Chinese-held Subi Reef, just 25 kilometers (15 miles) away.

"Those were just exchanges and no untoward incident happened," Lorenzana told reporters, adding that those normally transpire amid the unresolved territorial conflicts.

The Chinese navy has similarly warned U.S. ships and aircraft to leave what Beijing claims as its territory, messages which the Americans also ignored.

On Pag-asa, known internationally as Thitu, Lorenzana announced that the Philippines would start to develop the island, the second-largest in the Spratly archipelago, with plans for a wharf and reinforcing and extending the partly-eroded dirt airstrip. China may

protest the planned constructions, but Lorenzana said he did not expect it to worsen into a confrontation.

Asked what he thought of China's rapidly developed Subi Reef near Pag-asa, Lorenzana he was awed.

"A grudging admiration to the Chinese for their resolve and single-mindedness to bolster their claims," Lorenzana said in a text message to The Associated Press. "I wished we had the same."

China claims virtually the entire sea and has aggressively tried to fortify its foothold by transforming in recent years seven mostly submerged reefs into island outposts, some with runways and radars and more recently weapons systems, to the consternation of other claimants and the United States, which insists on freedom of navigation in international waters.

Philippine security officials also said they were checking reports that Filipino fishermen were harassed by the Chinese coast guard near Union Bank in the South China Sea few days ago. Lorenzana said authorities have yet to get the fishermen's statements, but if true, the Philippines would file a diplomatic protest with China.

China's radio warnings to the Philippine military planes took place despite the improved relations between the Asian neighbors after President Rodrigo Duterte, who took office in June, reached out to Beijing.

Duterte himself had planned to fly to Pag-asa to raise his country's flag when the Philippines celebrates its Independence Day on June 12, but dropped the plan after China raised concerns.

## Pence embraces US-Australia partnership after Trump spat

**SYDNEY (AP)**—U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Australia's prime minister swept aside any lingering tensions Saturday over an Obama era agreement on the resettlement of refugees, joining forces to urge China to take a greater role in pressuring North Korea to scuttle its nuclear weapons and missile program.

Pence and Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull repeatedly praised the decades-long American-Australian alliance following a meeting in Sydney, with the vice president passing along President Donald Trump's "very best regards" and thanking Turnbull for calling on Beijing to

be more assertive in the international effort to de-escalate Pyongyang's nuclear threat.

Meeting at the governor-general's residence with sweeping views of Sydney Harbour and the city's famed opera house, the two leaders appeared at pains to present a united front following an unusual period of strain between the longtime allies. The anxieties were sparked by a spat between Turnbull and Trump over a refugee resettlement deal struck by former President Barack Obama.

Pence said Saturday that the U.S. would honor the agreement even if the administration didn't agree with it. Under the deal, the U.S. would take

up to 1,250 refugees housed by Australia in detention camps on the Pacific island nations of Nauru and Papua New Guinea.

Trump's anger over the agreement led to a tense phone call with Turnbull in January and an angry tweet in which the president called the deal "dumb."

"President Trump has made it clear that we'll honor the agreement—that doesn't mean we admire the agreement," Pence said during a joint news conference with Turnbull.

The prime minister, for his part, said that "whatever the reservations of the president are," the decision "speaks vol-

umes for the commitment, the integrity of President Trump, and your administration, sir, to honor that commitment."

The fallout over the deal has strained the typically cozy alliance between the U.S. and Australia. A majority of Australians view Trump unfavorably, and some critics of him have urged Australia to distance itself from the U.S. in favor of stronger ties with China. Turnbull has resisted pressure to choose between the two countries, both of which are considered vital allies; the U.S. is Australia's most important security partner, while China is its most important trading partner.

Pence's visit Down Under,

After a flag-raising ceremony on Pag-asa, Lorenzana told troops that Duterte had ordered him to inspect the island and ensure facilities are built there as soon as possible.

About 1.6 billion pesos (\$32 million) has been earmarked for the construction, including a fish port, solar power, water desalination plant, improved housing for soldiers, and facilities for marine research and tourists.

The government also plans to fortify small buildings on eight much smaller reefs and atolls

## Japan panel OKs emperor's abdication, skirts succession

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese government panel on Friday endorsed Emperor Akihito's apparent desire to abdicate as an exception, but avoided a key question of succession amid a declining royal population.

The six-member advisory panel in its final report proposed allowing Akihito to abdicate under legislation that would be specially drafted only for him, to prevent future emperors from easily following suit.

The report detailed procedures such as the title, status and roles for an abdicated emperor and his heir, but avoided divisive issues such as whether women should be included in the current male-only succession amid concerns about the shrinking royal population, including successors to the throne.

Last August, the 83-year-old Akihito expressed his apparent wish to abdicate, citing his age and health. The elder of the two sons, Crown Prince

occupied by Filipino forces.

The latest visit may highlight the territorial disputes when Duterte hosts an annual summit of Southeast Asian leaders in Manila next week. The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which the Philippines currently chairs, expects to conclude talks with China this year on the framework of a regional code of conduct that aims to prevent the long-simmering disputes from escalating into a shooting war.

**Japan panel OKs emperor's abdication, skirts succession**

**TOKYO (AP)**—A Japanese government panel on Friday endorsed Emperor Akihito's apparent desire to abdicate as an exception, but avoided a key question of succession amid a declining royal population.

The government will now write legislation for a parliamentary approval.

Akihito would be the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years. Media reports say officials are considering his abdication at the end of next year, when Akihito turns 85 and marks 30 years on the throne.

Akihito's possible abdication highlights the larger issue of aging royals and a shortage of successors in Japan's 2,000-year-old monarchy—concerns also reflected in wider Japan's aging and declining population.

Akihito has another son, who is six years younger than the crown prince, but only one of his four grandchildren is male.

Under the current Imperial House law, only male descendants can inherit the title, and female members are stripped of their royal status when they marry a commoner.

# World

## Security tight as France prepares for presidential vote

**PARIS** (AP)—Early voting began overseas Saturday in France's most nail-biting election in generations, and the 11 candidates seeking to become the country's next president silenced their campaigns as required to give voters a period of reflection.

Opinion polls pointed to a tight race among the four top contenders vying to get into the May 7 presidential runoff that will decide who becomes France's next head of state. But the polls also said that decision was largely in the hands of the one-in-three French voters who were still undecided.

Polls opened in France's far-flung overseas territories but voting wouldn't start until Sunday on the French mainland. France's 10 percent unemployment, its lackluster economy and security issues topped voters' concerns.

Political campaigning was banned from midnight Friday until the polls close at 8 p.m. Sunday. Polls suggested that far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen and Emmanuel Macron, an independent centrist

### Opposition: Missiles knock out hospital in Syria's north

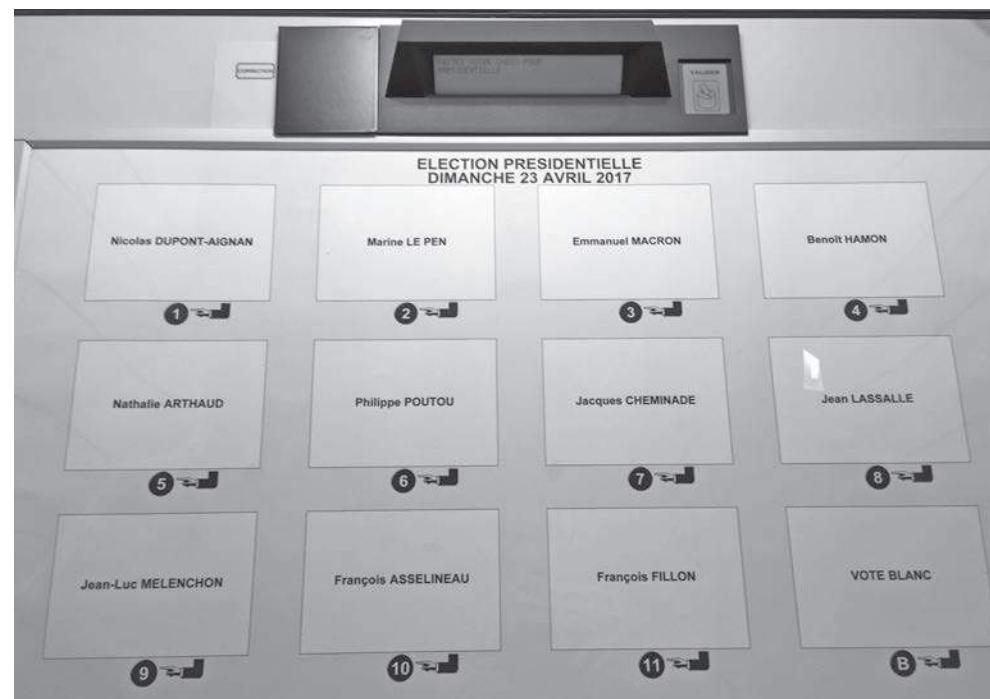
**BEIRUT** (AP)—Missiles struck a medical center in Syria's northern rebel-held province, putting the facility built underground for protection out of service and killing a number of its staff, opposition activists said Saturday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported that airstrikes had seriously damaged the medical center in Abdin village, in Idlib. The activist-run Aleppo Today media group also reported on the airstrikes.

But later the Observatory said missiles, likely fired from land, have also hit the underground center, penetrating it and causing serious damage to the underground facility. Airstrikes followed, the Observatory said.

International medical charities say Syrian government forces target hospitals, clinics and ambulances in opposition-held areas. To protect against the targeting, many opposition-area medical facilities have set up their operations underground.

The attack against the Abdin medical center caused fires and killed a person in the vicinity, the Observatory said. Rescue workers sifted through the rubble to find survivors, lifting nine medical staff as a search continued for four still



An electronic voting machine displays the names of the eleven candidates for the first round of the French presidential election in Ville d'Avray, near Paris, France, Sunday, April 23, 2017. **AP**

and former economy minister, were in the lead.

However, conservative Francois Fillon, a former prime minister whose campaign was initially derailed by corruption allegations that his wife was paid for no-show

work as his aide, appeared to be closing the gap, as was far-leftist candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon.

Security was tight—the government mobilized more than 50,000 police and gendarmes to protect 70,000 polling stations, with an additional 7,000 soldiers on patrol.

Security was a prominent issue after a wave of extremist attacks on French soil, including a gunman who killed a Paris police officer Thursday night before being shot dead by security forces. The gunman carried a note praising the Islamic State group.

Voters made their choices in the Atlantic Ocean territories of Saint Pierre and Miquelon as well as in French Guiana in South America, the Caribbean's Guadeloupe and elsewhere. Voters abroad could also cast ballots in French embassies Saturday.

The mad-dash campaigning of the last few weeks came to an abrupt halt after the Champs-Elysees gun attack by 39-year-old Karim Cheurfi. Three suspects close to the attacker remain in custody, Agnes Thibault-Lecuire of the Paris prosecutor's office said Saturday.



Source: IFOP; French Constitutional Council

Graphic: Tribune News Service

Le Pen and Fillon canceled their last campaign events Friday over security concerns. Macron did too, but also accused his rivals of trying to capitalize on the attack with their anti-immigration, tough-on-security messages.

In a sign of how tense the country is, a man holding a knife caused widespread panic Saturday at Paris' Gare du Nord train station. He was arrested and no one was hurt.

Well-wishers paid their respects Saturday at the site of the shooting, which was adorned with flowers, candles and messages of solidarity for the slain police officer, Xavier Jugele. Across from the Eiffel Tower, women from the group Angry Wives of Law Enforcement demonstrated against violence aimed at police.

Some believed French stoicism would prevent a lurch

to the right in the presidential vote, even though the attack dominated French headlines.

"These 48 hours are not going to change everything ... terrorism is now an everyday occurrence. It's permanent, 24 hours a day. So we're not afraid. If we're believers in freedom, we must live with it," said Marise Moron, a retired doctor.

"I'm not going to let myself be influenced by people who are trying to frighten us," Paris resident Anne-Marie Redouin said near the heavily-guarded Eiffel Tower.

Others, fearful that Le Pen has been strengthened by the instability, said they would shift their votes from fringe candidates to make sure to keep the far-right out of power.

"With an attack such as this one, I think the National Front will get a good result. Therefore I'll change my intention and cast a useful vote—either Melenchon or Macron," said physics teacher Omar Ilys, 44.

The French presidential choice will resonate far beyond France's borders, from Syrian battlefields to Hong Kong trading floors and the halls of the U.N. Security Council.

The election is also widely being viewed as a ballot on the future of the 28-nation European Union. The far-right Le Pen and the far-left Melenchon could pull France out of the bloc and its shared

### After Ebola, Liberians slowly embrace mental health care

**MONROVIA, Liberia** (AP)—Drawn-out deaths. Communities torn apart. Survivor's guilt. Patrick Fallah says his memories of the days when the Ebola virus swept through Liberia are so awful that he sometimes has trouble focusing on the present.

"Sometimes when I have a flashback of the death of my son and others who died in the Ebola treatment unit, I don't want to speak to people. I grieve so much that my mind is not really on what I am doing," said Fallah, 30, who lost his 8-month-old son and stepmother and is president of the National Ebola Survivors Network of Liberia.

The trauma of the world's deadliest Ebola outbreak, which killed more than 11,300, mostly in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, has left many survivors fighting a battle some worry will never end.

But Liberia, one of the world's poorest countries and with just one psychia-

trist, has announced the ambitious goal of expanding access to mental health care to 70 percent of its population in the next few years.

The World Health Organization declared an end to the Ebola outbreak in June, estimating that more than 10,000 people who had been infected have survived in the three West African countries, including more than 4,000 in Liberia.

As the world's attention has turned to other crises, many Ebola survivors still face the psychological consequences of the epidemic, feeling guilt over their pasts and worry for their futures without resources to deal with the pain.

Mental health is often an expense far beyond the reach of impoverished countries. Liberia is still struggling to rebuild its basic health services after more than a decade of back-to-back civil wars that left a quarter-million people dead, with many killings car-

ried out by drugged, underage fighters notorious for hacking off survivors' limbs.

Then Ebola arrived, frightening Liberians with its lack of a cure and its transmission through contact with body fluids. Many people became too scared to touch others or offer comfort as the death toll grew.

Now Liberia's government has announced its ambition to expand mental health care access to its more than 4.2 million people, with help from the U.S.-based The Carter Center.

"After the civil war, people didn't go through enough counseling. You have people already going through post-traumatic depression. Then Ebola came, and that built on what was already going on," said Dr. Francis Kateh, Liberia's deputy health minister and chief medical officer.

The Carter Center is helping to train Liberia's health care workers to identify mental health issues.

Last month, 21 clinicians

specializing in child and adolescent mental health graduated from the training. They join 187 mental health professionals who have been trained by the center since 2010 to work in prisons, with refugees or in other settings and are based in primary care clinics and hospitals around the country.

The Carter Center hopes to replicate its program in other countries, including Sierra Leone.

But educating the public will take time, the new mental health workers say.

"There are many people living with mental health problems in Liberia without knowing they are," said one of the new specialists, Theophilus A. Joe.

Stigma remains around mental health issues, said Musulyn Massaqoui, a registered nurse and another recent graduate. Most people come to clinics only for physical issues, she said.

## Focus



AP

This frame grab from video provided in August 6, 2016, by Turkistan Islamic Party, a militant website outlet that is consistent with independent AP reporting, shows a fighter from the Turkistan Islamic Party prepares to fire a missile, during a battle against the Syrian government forces, in Aleppo, Syria.

# CHINESE JIHADIS' rise in Syria raises concerns at home

By BASSEM MROUE  
and GERRY SHIH  
Associated Press

**B**EIRUT (AP)— Many don't speak Arabic and their role in Syria is little known to the outside world, but the Chinese fighters of the Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria are organized, battle-hardened and have been instrumental in ground offensives against President Bashar Assad's forces in the country's northern regions.

Thousands of Chinese jihadis have come to Syria since the country's civil war began in March 2011 to fight against government forces and their allies. Some have joined the al-Qaida's branch in the country previously known as Nusra Front. Others paid allegiance to the Islamic State group and a smaller number joined factions such as the ultraconservative Ahrar al-Sham.

But the majority of Chinese jihadis are with the Turkistan Islamic Party in Syria, whose vast majority are Chinese Muslims, particularly those from the Turkic-speaking Uighur majority native to Xinjiang in China. Their growing role in Syria has resulted in increased cooperation between Syrian and Chinese intelligence agencies who fear those same jihadis could one day return home and cause trouble there.

The Turkistan Islamic Party is the other name for the East Turkistan Islamic Movement that considers China's Xinjiang to be East Turkistan.

Like most jihadi groups in

Syria, their aim is to remove Assad's secular government from power and replace it with strict Islamic rule. Their participation in the war, which has left nearly 400,000 people dead, comes at a time when the Chinese government is one of Assad's strongest international backers. Along with Russia, China has used its veto power at the U.N. Security Council on several occasions to prevent the imposition of international sanctions against its Arab ally.

Beijing has blamed violence back at home and against Chinese targets around the world on Islamic militants with foreign connections seeking an independent state in Xinjiang. The government says some of them are fleeing the country to join the Jihad, although critics say the Uighurs are discriminated against and economically marginalized in their homeland and are merely seeking to escape repressive rule by the majority Han Chinese.

Abu Dardaa al-Shami, a member of the now-defunct extremist Jund al-Aqsa group, said the TIP has the best "Inghemasioun," Arabic for "those who immerse themselves." The Inghemasioun have been used by extremist groups such as IS and al-Qaida's affiliate now known as Fatah al-Sham Front. Their role is to infiltrate their targets, unleash mayhem and fight to the death before a major ground offensive begins.

"They are the lions of ground offensives," said al-Shami, who fought on several



AP

In this undated photo released by Turkistan Islamic Party, a militant website, which has been verified and is consistent with other AP reporting, shows an Asian fighter from the Turkistan Islamic Party smiles, at unknown place in Syria.

occasions alongside TIP fighters in northern Syria.

Xie Xiaoyuan, China's envoy to Syria, told reporters in November that the two countries have had normal military exchanges focused on humanitarian issues, although Chinese officials have repeatedly rejected the possibility of sending troops or weapons.

In the last year, however, Chinese and Syrian officials have begun holding regular, once-a-month high-level meetings to share intelligence on militant movements in Syria, according to a person familiar with the matter. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not allowed to reveal military secrets.

"These people not only fight alongside international terrorist forces in Syria, but

also they will possibly return to China posing threat to China's national security," said Li Wei, terrorism expert at China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations and Director of the CICIR Institute of Security and Arms Control Studies.

Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said there are about 5,000 Chinese fighters in Syria, most of them with the TIP fighters in northern Syria who along with their families make about 20,000. Li, the terrorism expert, said Abdurrahman's numbers are way too high, adding that he believes the number are about 300 Chinese fighters in Syria who brought with them about 700 family members.

"As the control of the passage along the borders between Turkey and Syria is being tightened, it is becoming more difficult for them to smuggle into Syria," Li said.

Syrian opposition activists and pro-government media outlets say dozens of TIP fighters have carried out suicide attacks against government forces and their allies and for the past two years have led battles mostly in the north of the country.

The suicide attackers include one known as Shahid Allah al-Turkistani. He was shown in a video released by TIP taken from a drone of an attack in which he blew himself up in the vehicle he was driving near Aleppo late last year, allegedly killing dozens of pro-government gunmen.

In 2015, members of the group spearheaded an attack on the northwestern province of Idlib and captured the strategic town of Jisr al-Shughour on the edge of Assad's stronghold of Latakia region. They reportedly damaged a church in the town and raised their black flag on top of it.

In late 2016, TIP was a main force to briefly break a government siege on the then rebel-held eastern parts of the northern city of Aleppo.

The role of the Chinese jihadis in Syria was a topic that Assad spoke about last month in an interview with Chinese PHOENIX TV, saying "they know your country more than the others, so they can do more harm in your country than others."

Unlike other rebel groups, TIP is a very secretive organization and they live among themselves, according to activists in northern Syria. They are active in parts of Idlib and in the strategic town of Jisr al-Shughour, as well as the Kurdish Mountains in the western province of Latakia.

Abdul-Hakim Ramadan, a doctor who was active in Idlib province, said one of his teams was trying to enter a northwestern village to vaccinate children when TIP fighters prevented them from entering, saying only Chinese can go into the area.

Ramadan said unlike other fighters who have come to Syria, the Chinese have not merged into local communities and the language has been a major barrier.

# Health & Fitness

# Quinn on Nutrition: Genetically altered foods

By BARBARA QUINN  
THE MONTEREY COUNTY HERALD

**M**y editor forwarded this voicemail to me: "Good morning. This is Mrs. Mary Margaret Graham ... like the crackers ... from Carmel. I'd like you to do an article on genetically altered foods. I was at a ladies club this past week and all we could talk about was food and how it affects us. We are starting to suffer from overpopulation and if we don't have food we're out of luck! So we'd like to get an article on this genetically altered food. Thank you very much for your efforts on behalf of some of us older ladies, so we know what's good for us and what we should avoid."

Glad to, as you bring up the concerns of all of us who eat for a living, including farmers and food producers. And timely, too, as I just attended an update on this very topic sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (AND)—the world's largest organization of nutrition professionals—in collaboration with the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)—food scientists from more than 90 countries whose goal (according to their website) is to provide "every person on the planet with a safe, nutritious and sustainable food supply."

A genetically modified organism (GMO) is any living thing that has had its genetic material altered in a way that does not occur naturally. Genetic engineering (GE) is the term for the technology scientists use to transfer individual genes from one living thing to the other.

Red flag? Consider what genes are and what they do. Genes determine individual characteristics of living things—yours or mine or those of a turnip. Genes are not the characteristics themselves, however. They are the instructions that cells follow to make proteins that control our genetic destiny. Think of your genetic code (or that of a turnip) as a recipe book. Cells follow these recipes to make

proteins that determine our unique attributes.

Genes are what make an orange different from spinach, for example. But what if an orange tree was being attacked by a bug that spread a bacteria that killed the tree and its fruit? And what if farmers were not able to eradicate this bug, even with pesticides and other strategies? And what if researchers discovered in the genetic code book for spinach a recipe (gene) for a protein that renders spinach immune to the bacteria that is now destroying orange trees?

That's exactly what is happening in Florida where a reported 80 percent of that state's citrus trees are being destroyed by a bacteria that causes a condition called "citrus greening." Plant pathologist Erik Mirkov from Texas A&M University discovered that spinach contains a protein that resists this bacteria. And when he inserted this particular recipe into orange plants, he was able to grow orange trees that produced proteins that protected orange trees from this bad bug.

Would you drink orange juice from a tree that was "genetically modified" in this way? Many orange farmers are afraid you would not. And so the debate continues.

For the record, study after study has determined that genetically altered food is exactly the same chemically and nutritionally as non-GMO foods. That's one reason why the US Food and Drug Administration has not mandated labeling of foods produced with biotechnology. Food producers can voluntarily provide that information, however.

Still, the issue of which foods we choose to eat (and why) remains a personal one. Sometimes it helps to understand what we are really talking about, however. Thanks for your question, Mary Margaret.

*Barbara Quinn is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator affiliated with Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula. She is the author of "Quinn-Essential Nutrition" (Westbow Press, 2015). Email her at to barbara@quinnessentialnutrition.com.*



What should you know about genetically modified foods?  
DREAMSTIME

## Personal Trainer

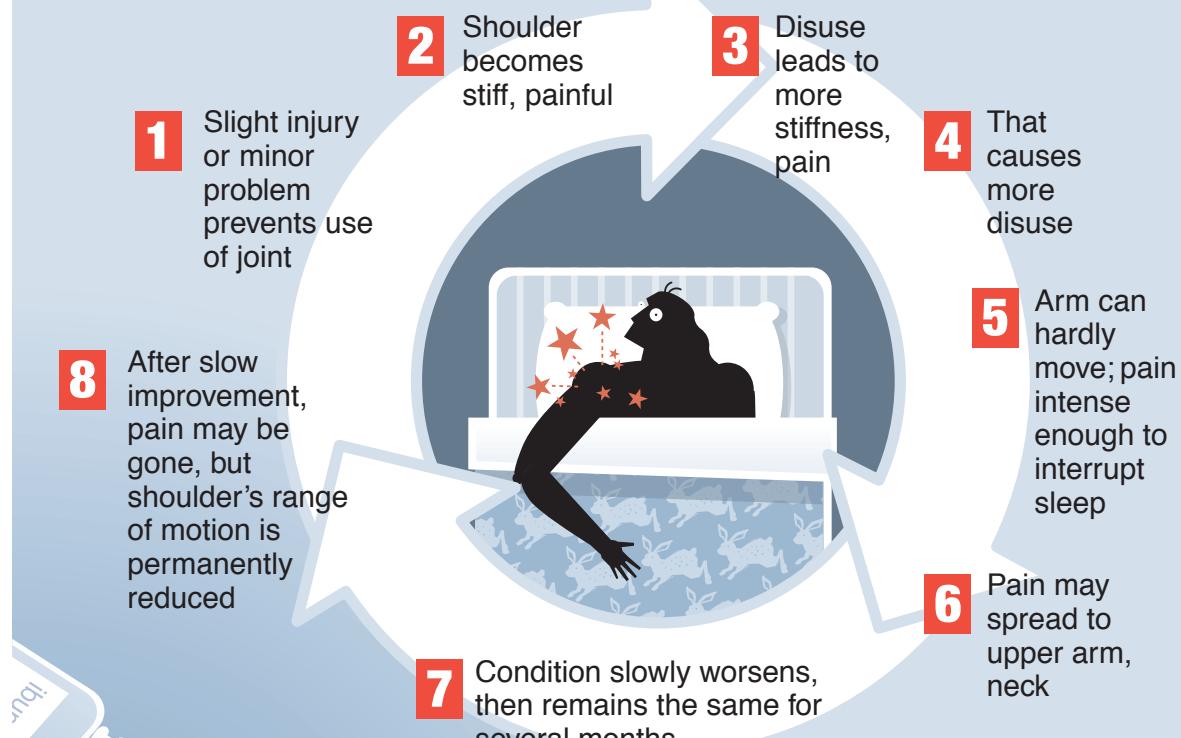
### Pain can progress to frozen shoulder

*Left untreated, a shoulder injury can cause permanent stiffness, but with treatment, chances of regaining pain-free mobility are good.*

#### Common causes

- **Bursitis**, inflammation of fluid-filled sac in shoulder
- **Tendinitis**, inflammation of a tendon joining muscle, bone

#### Cycle of pain and disuse



#### Treatment

- After injury, move shoulder gently as much as possible and use painkillers such as aspirin or ibuprofen
- Get medical advice if injured shoulder does not improve promptly

Source: "AMA Family Medical Guide," "The Johns Hopkins Medical Handbook"  
Graphic: Paul Trap, Tribune News Service

This advertorial is sponsored by Tan Siu Lin Foundation



Tan Siu Lin  
Foundation

# Life & Style

## Erin Moran, Joanie Cunningham in 'Happy Days,' dies at 56

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Erin Moran, the former child star who played Joanie Cunningham in the sitcoms "Happy Days" and "Joanie Loves Chachi," died Saturday at age 56.

A statement from the sheriff's department in Harrison County, Indiana, said the dispatcher "received a 911 call about an unresponsive female. Upon arrival

of first responders, it was determined that Erin Moran Fleischmann was deceased. An autopsy is pending."

The dispatcher confirmed to The Associated Press that the woman was the actress, who had been married to Steven Fleischmann.

"Such sad sad news. RIP Erin," "Happy Days" star Ron Howard tweeted Saturday. "I'll always choose to

remember you on our show making scenes better, getting laughs and lighting up TV screens."

A Burbank, California, native, Moran began acting in TV and movies before she was 10 years old. She had several years of experience when she was cast in 1974 in "Happy Days" as Joanie Cunningham, the kid sister to high school student

Richie Cunningham, played by Howard. Other cast members included Tom Bosley and Marion Ross as Joanie's parents and Henry Winkler as the loveable tough guy Arthur "The Fonz" Fonziarelli.

"What happened with all of us was like we were this family," she told Xfinity in 2009. "It was so surreal with all the cast members. ... They were my family, get it?"



In this Sept. 24, 2008 file photo, Erin Moran arrives at the Fox Reality Channel Really Awards in Los Angeles. AP

### *In celebration of his new life* Buenaventura Ortega Villacrusis *Loving known as "Ben"*

**Born to Life on July 14, 1943**

**Called to Eternal Life on April 19, 2017**

**In his new Life, He now join His:**

**Parents:**

†Esteban Villacrusis

†Benita Ortega

**Siblings:**

†Efren Villacrusis

†Silvestre Villacrusis

†Gregorio Villacrusis

†Julian Caisip

†Cecilia Buenaventura

**Parents-In-Law:**

†Juanito Caisip

†Ana Caisip

**His spirit and memories will forever live in the hearts of his:**

**Spouse:**

Beatriz Caisip Villacrusis

**Children:**

Michael & Jovie Villacrusis

*(Ethan Mijo & Mikhail Liam)*

Michelle Villacrusis & Fiance Petronilo Cruz Jr.

**Siblings:**

Crispin Villacrusis & Family

Beatriz Villacrusis & Family

**Siblings-In-Law:**

Bebencio Buenaventura Caisip & Family

Dionecio Buenaventura Caisip & Family

**Half Siblings-In-Law:**

Marilyn Caisip

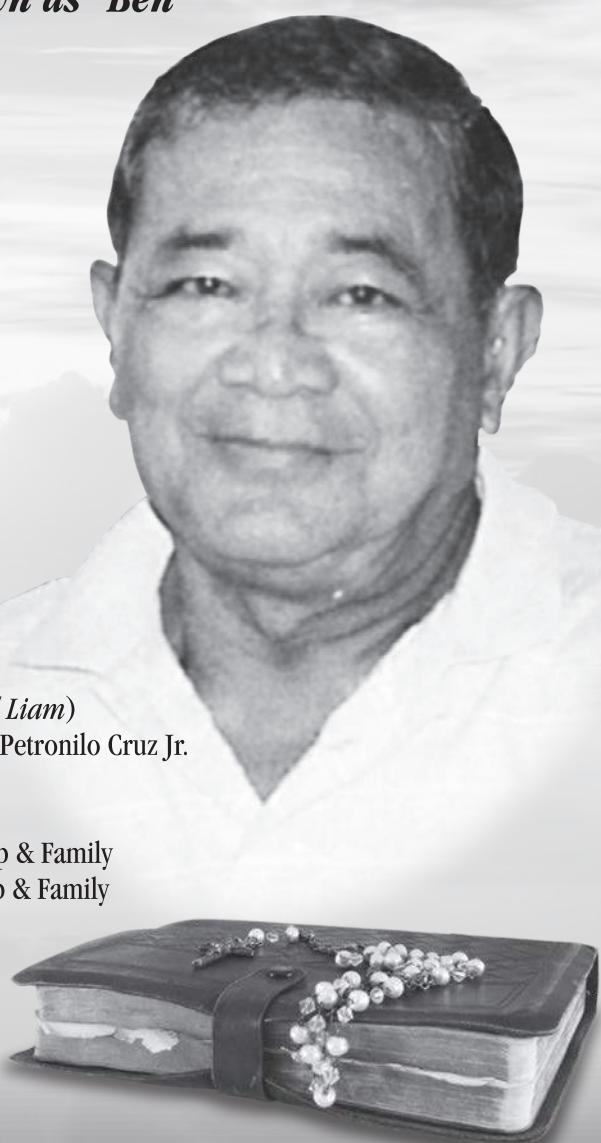
Ricardo Pineda

Appolinario Caisip & Family

Mamerta Caisip & Family

Narciso Ata Caisip & Family

Teresita Pineda & Family



Daily mass of intentions for the repose soul is being offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6AM.

Holy Rosary is being prayed at 7:00 PM at Kristo Rai Church until April 26, 2017.

On Thursday, April 27, 2017, his remains will be escorted from CHCC Morgue at 8:30AM to Kristo Rai Church. Recitation of the holy rosary will be followed by visitation and last respects.

Mass will be celebrated 10:30AM

*Please join us in prayers,*

*Thank You – Maraming Salamat Po – Si Yu’us Ma’ase*

**Wife, Children & Families of the late**  
**†Buenaventura "Ben" O. Villacrusis**



**Hollywood agent and producer Sandy Gallin dies at 76**

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Sandy Gallin, an agent and talent manager who guided the careers of such luminaries as Barbra Streisand, Dolly Parton, Cher and Nicole Kidman, as well as being a TV, movie and Broadway producer, has died in Los Angeles. He was 76.

Gallin died Friday after a long battle with multiple myeloma, according to close friend Bruce Bozzi. "We lost a shining light this morning," Bozzi wrote on Instagram in tribute.

Other Gallin clients included Neil Diamond, Joan Rivers, Mariah Carey, Whoopi Goldberg, Renee Zellweger, Lily Tomlin, Martin Lawrence, Paul Lynde and Howie Mandell.

He helped produce such

**Judge blocks sound engineer's release of Prince EP**

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—A federal judge has blocked a sound engineer from releasing a five-song EP of unpublished music by Prince after the late superstar's estate objected—but one of the songs is still available online.

George Ian Boxill worked with Prince on five tracks in 2006, and made at least one recording—called "Deliverance"—available Wednesday for online sales. Prince's estate and Paisley Park Enterprises sued to block it.

U.S. District Judge Wil-

films as 1991's "Father of the Bride" and 1994's "I.Q." starring Tim Robbins, as well as the TV shows "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" and "Angel." He earned a Primetime Emmy Award in 1980 for producing "The Miracle Worker," starring Melissa Gilbert.

He also managed Michael Jackson after the pop star was accused of molestation and guided Milli Vanilli when the performers were stripped of their Grammy Award after it was discovered they had not sung on their hit album.

On Broadway, Gallin produced the 2002 Tony Award-nominated revival of "Man of La Mancha," starring Brian Stokes Mitchell and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, and a revival of "Hedda Gabler" with Kate Burton.

helmina Wright granted a temporary restraining order to stop the music's release late Wednesday.

But independent label RMA says the song "Deliverance" was released before the judge's ruling, so it doesn't apply. The song was available online Thursday.

The estate's lawsuit says Boxill signed a confidentiality agreement that the recordings would remain Prince's property. Prince sings and plays guitar and keyboard on the tracks.

# Reese Witherspoon speaks out against elephant poaching

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Sparkly, exquisite diamonds were the draw but Reese Witherspoon's thoughts were with something much larger—elephants.

The Oscar-winning "Big Little Lies" star attended a

party in New York on Friday night to celebrate Tiffany and Co. and said she backed the jewelry company's commitment to stop global trafficking and demand for elephant ivory. "I've had the great opportu-

nity to work with elephants in my career, and spend a lot of time in Africa with elephants. I love that they are doing so much for conservation, and helping save the elephants," said Witherspoon.

Between 20,000 and 30,000 elephants are killed every year for their tusks. Last year, Tiffany & Co. partnered with the Elephant Crisis Fund to raise money to fight for the elephants.

"They provide a lot of information about what they're doing to ethically source diamonds, gold, and silver, so it's a very responsible brand; not only beautiful, but very responsible," Witherspoon said.

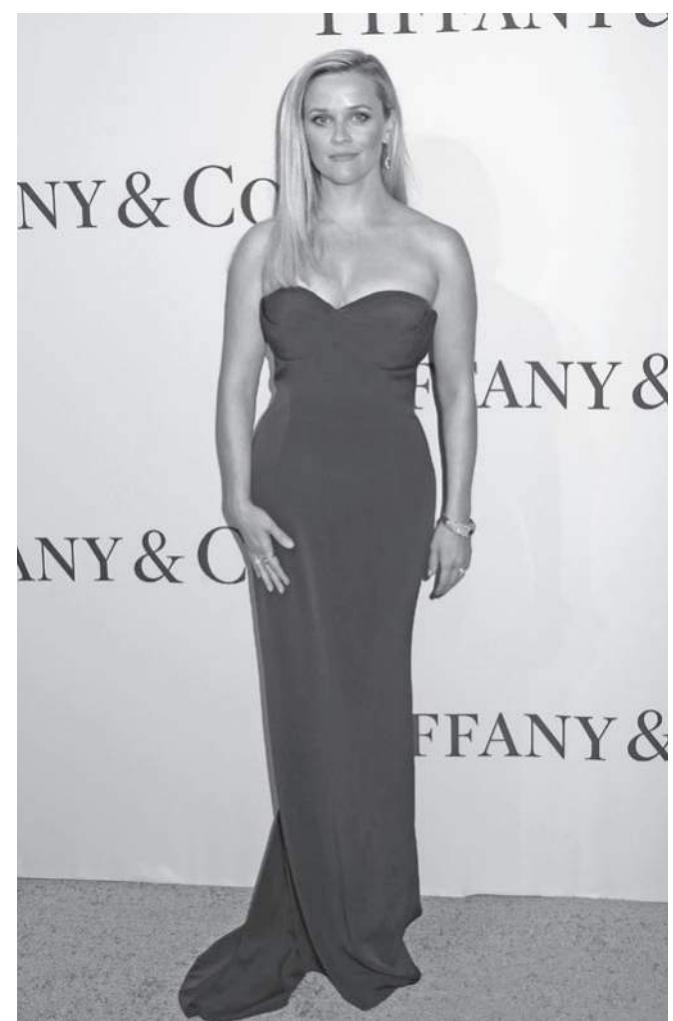
Fresh from a film shoot in South Africa, Dominic West also cheered the impact that the Elephant Crisis Fund has made on the poaching of elephant tusks. He just wished it would also apply to rhinoceroses. Poachers are also kill-

ing them for their horns. "Oh, they're killing thousands every year in South Africa. It's just appalling," he said.

Also attending the Tiffany event were Jennifer Hudson, Claire Danes, Haley Bennett and Ruth Negga.

As for "Big Little Lies," the HBO miniseries starring Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman that had its season finale earlier this month, Witherspoon said she was hopeful a second season would happen.

"We love playing these characters, and we loved being together with this great, extraordinary group of people, so hopefully it will happen. Fingers crossed," Witherspoon said.



## 2 groups arrested in Coachella cellphone thefts

**INDIO, Calif.** (AP)—Police have arrested five people in the theft of more than 40 cellphones, cash and credit cards at the Coachella music festival in the Southern California desert.

Indio police say multiple festival-goers reported the thefts, and investigators identified two separate groups of suspects who had multiple phones on them Saturday.

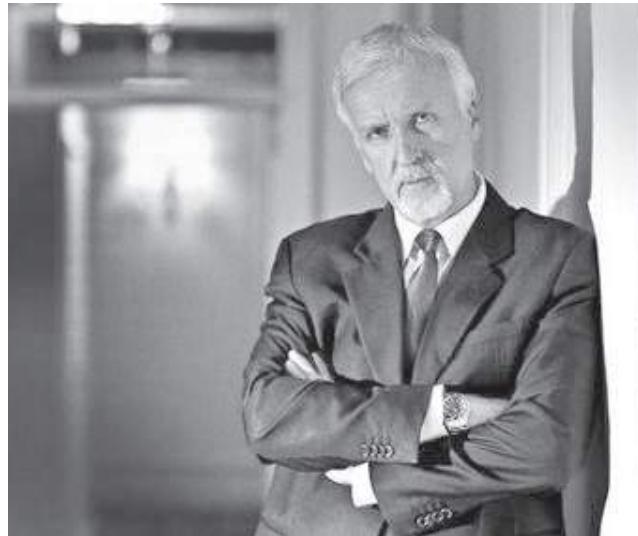
The Desert Sun reports (http://desert.sn/2poJYF2 ) that five people were booked into Riverside County jail on theft and conspiracy charges.

Police believe two women, 35-year-old Angela Trivino of New York City and 38-year-old Viviana Hernandez of Los Angeles, were working together. They identified the other group as 29-year-old Brenda Cansino of Miami, 27-year-old Marco Leon of Los Angeles and 25-year-old Sharon Ruiz of Van Nuys.

It's unclear whether they have attorneys.

One man was arrested at Coachella with more than 100 cellphones in his backpack on April 14.

## 'Avatar' sequels now scheduled to start in December 2020



**NEW YORK** (AP)—James Cameron has set the release dates for the next four "Avatar" sequels, with the first coming in 2020.

The movie's Facebook page

Saturday posted a photo of Cameron and his massive film crew, who have been working on all four films simultaneously. The post said "Avatar 2" will hit theaters Dec. 18, 2020,

**AP** This March 27, 2012, file photo shows filmmaker James Cameron poses in London. Cameron set the release dates for the next four "Avatar" sequels, with the first coming in 2020.

and "Avatar 3" comes a year later, on Dec. 17, 2021.

The franchise then takes a three-year hiatus before returning with "Avatar 4" on Dec. 20, 2024, and "Avatar 5" on Dec. 19, 2025. The first sequel had been expected in 2018 but Cameron this year said that timetable wouldn't be met.

The original 2009 "Avatar" film has netted over \$2.7 billion, centering on the conflict between humans and the blue-skinned alien race Na'vi of Pandora.

Springsteen takes part in surprise show at film festival

**ASBURY PARK, N.J.** (AP)—Bruce Springsteen took part in a two-hour jam session during a surprise appearance at a film festival in his home state of New Jersey.

Longtime E Street Band member Steven Van Zandt and veteran Jersey shore rocker Southside Johnny were among those who played with Springsteen at the Asbury Park Music and Film Festival on Friday. Also taking part were some former E Street Band members and the Lakehouse Jr. Pros, a band featuring child musicians.

The concert followed the premiere of a documentary film chronicling the history of the Asbury Park music scene. The show featured several

rock and R&B staples including Chuck Berry's "Bye, Bye Johnny," Jimi Hendrix' "Voodoo Child" and Little Richard's "Lucille."

Springsteen said it was "great" to see the "old guys still cranking it out."



**AP** Bruce Springsteen performs at The Asbury Park Music And Film Festival at The Paramount Theater on Friday, April 21, 2017, in Asbury Park, NJ.

## Man comes clean too late with the truth about his STD

**D**EAR ABBY: I recently had sex. Afterward the man told me he had an STD. He then proceeded to explain why he told me after instead of being upfront with me. I'm paranoid about that kind of thing, and he knew it before we became intimate.

Now I'm worried I have it too, and I'm breaking up with him because of it. I feel he should've told me first and left the choice to me if I wanted to risk getting his STD or not. I'm angry and upset. I don't know how to go about talking it out with him and maintain the friendship between his son and mine.

When is the right time to tell someone you've got an STD? And how can I maintain my kid's friendship, because he doesn't have many friends?

PARANOID IN ARIZONA

**DEAR "PARANOID":** You are not the least bit paranoid to be concerned that this man may have passed his STD along to you. What he did shows a distinct lack of character. I agree the choice of whether to pursue a sexual relationship should have been made after you were fully informed. If you haven't told him that already, you should, because all of your feelings are justified.

If you feel you must continue to have him in your life so your son can have his son for a friend, I suppose you can do that. But do it on a strictly platonic basis.

Your next step should be to consult your doctor and get yourself tested so you can get on meds if you need them.

**DEAR ABBY:** As an aging adult, I have encountered a situation for the first time that I'm sure will come up again. An acquaintance has just passed away. It was someone I didn't know well. We would like to send a donation to honor the deceased. However, the only organization mentioned in the obituary is one we cannot support. Should we ignore our beliefs and honor the individual, or is there some other way to honor the person while maintaining (and funding) our "side" of this issue?

FIRST-TIME DILEMMA

**DEAR F.T.D.:** You do not have to send a donation to the organization mentioned in the announcement. Another way to honor the deceased would be to write a short note to the family expressing how much you admired their loved one and offering condolences.

**DEAR ABBY:** I know some of your readers have middle school, high school and/or college yearbooks -- theirs or a relative's -- they no longer want to keep. Instead of throwing them away, I'd like to offer the following options: (1) If the school still exists, see if they want it; (2) ask if the school's alumni association would like to have them; or (3) offer them to the local

## DEAR ABBY

**By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

*Dear Abby* is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



library for its local history section.

This will save space in the landfills and allow future generations to know what the school was like before they were born.

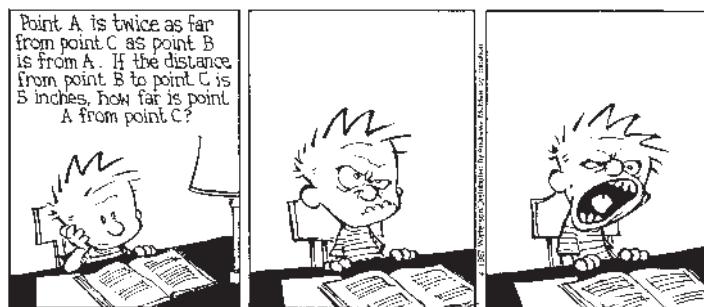
LARRY IN GRAND, TEXAS

**DEAR LARRY:** I'm not letting go of my yearbooks (memories, memories!), but those are good suggestions, and I'm sure some of my readers will appreciate them. Thanks for writing.

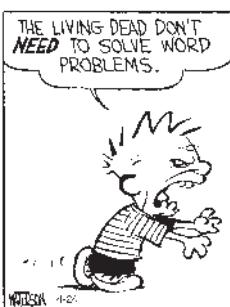
*What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents* is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



THE LIVING DEAD DON'T NEED TO SOLVE WORD PROBLEMS.

## Garfield®



SOME WORRY ABOUT OVERSLEEPING



NOT ME, THOUGH



I WORRY ABOUT OVER-WAKING

© 2012 AMERICAN-EXPRESS PUBLISHING CO., INC. 41 Holdings, Inc.

© 2012 AMERICAN-EXPRESS PUBLISHING CO., INC. 41 Holdings, Inc.

## Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Katherine Webb, 28; David Boudia, 28; Kelly Clarkson, 35; Barbra Streisand, 75.

**Happy Birthday:** Take a serious look at your financial situation and strategize how you can lower your overhead. Taking on extra work is possible, but don't do so if it will put you in another tax bracket. It's important to divide your time equally between home, work, play and rest. Too much of anything will be costly both physically and emotionally. Your numbers are 4, 12, 26, 28, 32, 34, 45.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Jump into action and do your best to take care of your responsibilities before someone complains. Staying ahead of the game will put you in a positive position later in the day. Don't let anything interfere with your productivity. **★★★**

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): It's in your best interest not to share personal information with others. Dealing with government institutions will be difficult if you are not up-to-date with your personal paperwork. Keep your life and responsibilities as simple as possible. **★★★**

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): You will get back what you put in. Offering your time or help to an organization or someone in need will bring great satisfaction, a sense of belonging and a chance to make new friends. Partnerships are featured. **★★★**

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Do something unique. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a creative idea or

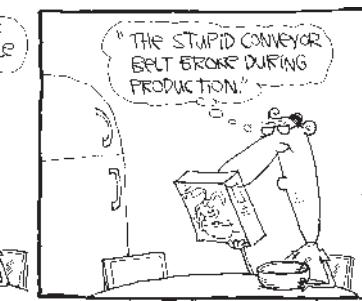
## The Duplex



CONTAINS SOY, MAY CONTAIN TRACES OF TREE NUT...



...AS WELL AS LITTLE PIECES OF RUBBER, AND POSSIBLY A LITTLE SCREW OR BOLT...



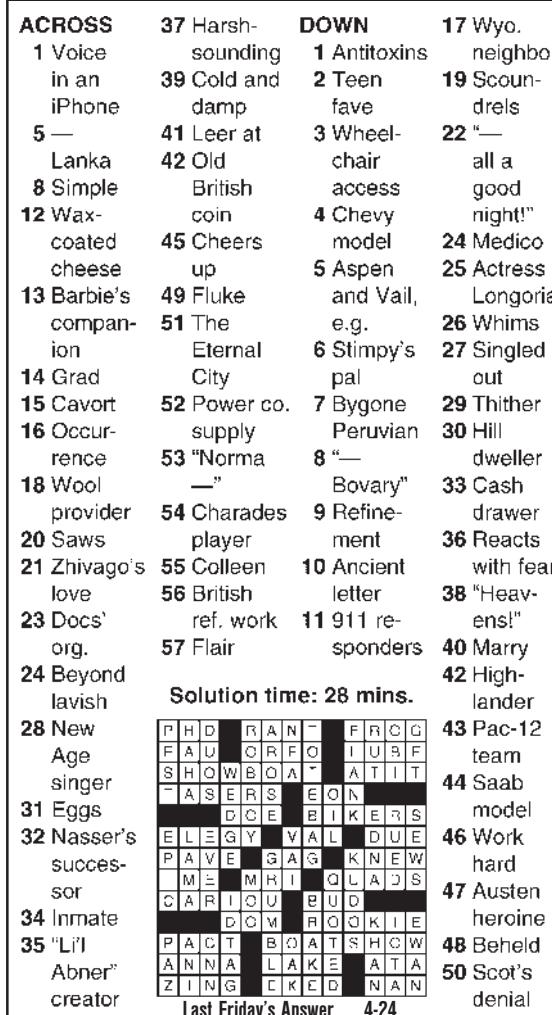
"THE STUPID CONVEYOR BELT BROKE DURING PRODUCTION."

© 2012 AMERICAN-EXPRESS PUBLISHING CO., INC. 41 Holdings, Inc.

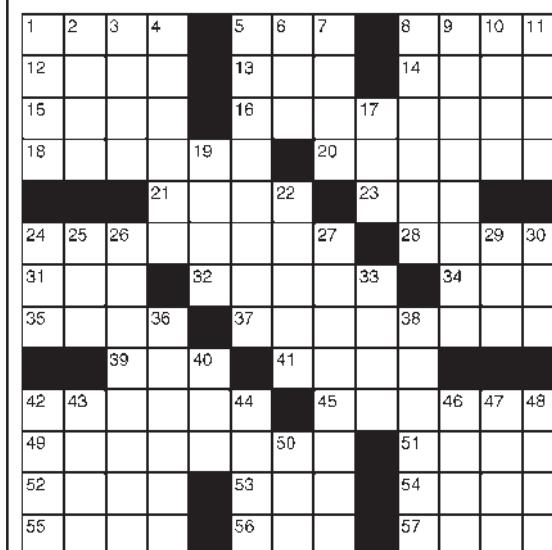
By Glenn McCoy

## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer



Solution time: 28 mins.  
PHDRAN-FRCG  
FAUCRFOIUBF  
SHOWBOATATIT  
TASERS EON  
DCEBIKERS  
ELEGY VAL DUE  
PAVE GAG KNEW  
ME MRI QLAJS  
CARIOUD BUD  
DOM ROCKIE  
PACT BOATSHOW  
ANNA LAKE ATA  
ZING EKED NAN  
Last Friday's Answer 4-24



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

solution that will help you avoid a mistake due to someone else's intervention. Control your emotional reaction to changes at home or at work. **★★**

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Travel to an interesting destination. Explore your emotions and inner thoughts. Engage in activities that will challenge you to do better and to offer more. Take your life and physical well-being seriously. Self-improvement is encouraged. **★★★★**

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Think twice before splurging on a luxury product that makes unrealistic claims to improve health, wealth or your appearance. You are better off taking a conservative approach to whatever you decide to do. **★★★**

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Look for reasons to do something, not for reasons not to. Refuse to let someone interfere with your plans or stop you from traveling to a destination that will help you get ahead. Partnerships look promising. **★★**

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't take on responsibilities that don't belong to you. Leave time to engage in the things you enjoy and to get together with the people who motivate and inspire you the most. Don't be afraid to do things differently. **★★★**

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Stop postponing the things you want to do because you are waiting for someone to join you. Make plans and follow through. When you start living life your way, good things will happen. Become the master of your destiny. **★★★★**

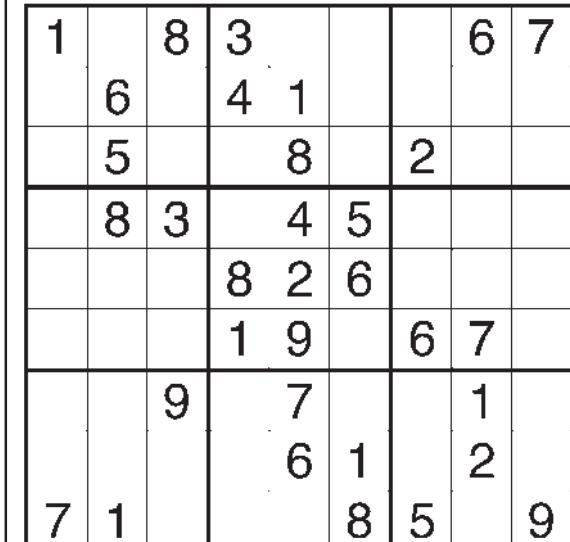
**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Do something unique. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a creative idea or

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

## SUDOKU

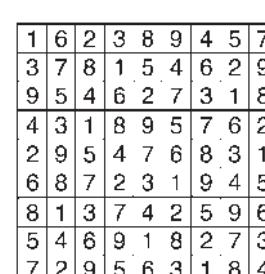
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★

Last Friday's Answer



4/24

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

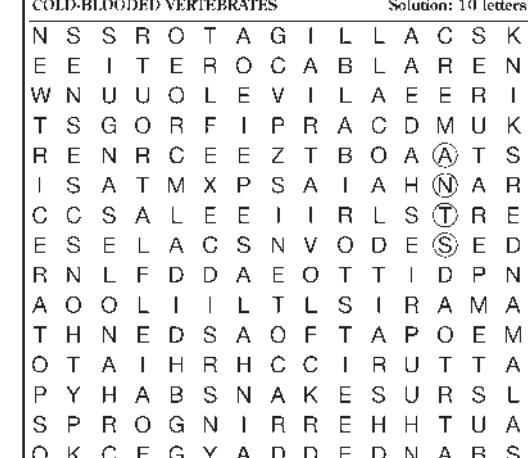
## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

COLD-BLOODED VERTEBRATES

Solution: 10 letters



© 2012 Andrew Nekoda. www.WonderWord.com. Download the WonderWord Game App! 4/24  
Albacore, Alive, Alligators, Armiva, Angus, Anoles, Ants, Banded Day Gecko, Bass, Carp, Catfish, Cobra, Cold-Draco, Eel, Frogs, Herring, Icefish, Lizard, Name, Newt, Ophidina, Pit Viper, Python, Reptile, Salamanders, Scales, Senses, Shade, Shark, Skink, Snakes, Temperatures, Toads, Tortoise, Triceratops, Trout, Turtles, Xenosaurus  
Last Friday's Answer: Turin Shroud  
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.



# Warriors near series sweep against Trail Blazers



**PORTRALD, Ore.** (AP)—Stephen Curry wasn't trying to be a hero. He just wanted the win.

Curry scored 34 points—including a 3-pointer with just about a minute left that all but sealed the victory—and the Golden State Warriors overcame a slow start to beat the Portland Trail Blazers 119-113 and take a 3-0 lead in their first-round playoff series.

Playing without both Kevin Durant and coach Steve Kerr, the Warriors came back Saturday night from a first-half 17-point deficit. Golden State can clinch the series with a win Monday night in Game 4 at the Moda Center.

"It's not necessarily 'hero ball,' it's being aggressive in those spots that you have," Curry said. "You might need to force the issue. That might mean taking a shot, it could be trying to get your feet in the paint and make a play, defensively trying to assert yourself—whatever the game calls for, getting ready for those moments."

Klay Thompson added 24 points in the victory, which Curry said was marked by a handful of "boneheaded mistakes" in the first half. A 19-1 run in the third quarter brought the Warriors back.

Afterward, Curry said he gave the game ball to general Manager Bob Myers to give to Kerr, who stayed back at the team hotel because of illness.

The Warriors took a 108-100 lead, their biggest of the game, after Andre Iguodala's dunk with 4:05 to go.

Noah Vonleh's dunk got Portland within four at 110-106 with 1:29 left, but Curry answered with his 3-pointer sent fans streaming for the exits.

CJ McCollum led the Blazers with 32 points, while Damian Lillard added 31. No team has ever come back from a 3-0 deficit in the playoffs.

"I don't think it's ever been done, coming back from 3-0, especially against a team like Golden State," Lillard said afterward. "But I'm sure a lot of you guys know I'm not one to quit and I'm very optimistic."

Portland saw the return of big man Jusuf Nurkic after he missed the final seven games of the regular season and the first two playoff games at Golden State because of a non-displaced fracture in his right leg. A

**TEXAS**  
(AP)—One

day after saying his back was progressing, Tiger Woods

had a fourth back surgery to alleviate pain and will go through another year without playing a major.

The surgery was Wednesday at the Texas Back Institute.

Woods was in Missouri on Tuesday to announce plans to design a public golf course at Big Cedar Lodge, and he even tried hitting a few shots to a par 3. The first one rattled around in the rocks, and the



7-footer known as the Bosnian Beast, Nurkic finished with two points and 11 rebounds.

The Warriors routed the Blazers 110-81 in Game 2 on Wednesday night. Durant injured his left calf in the third quarter of Sunday's 121-109 Game 1 victory, but finished with 32 points and 10 rebounds.

Energized by a raucous home crowd, Portland jumped out to an early 17-9 lead on Vonleh's dunk. Portland extended the lead in the second quarter, with Al-Farouq Aminu and Allen Crabbe showing spark after being largely quiet in the first two games. Crabbe's 3-pointer and a free throw put Portland up 49-33.

A 14-5 run put the Blazers up 65-48, but Curry hit a 3-pointer and a long jumper for the Warriors to close out the half down 67-54. Curry and Thompson were off in the opening half, going 8 of 25 from the field with just two 3-pointers—both from Curry.

The Warriors went on a 21-3 run to pull in front 85-83, capped by a pair of baskets from Iguodala and Draymond Green. Portland led 88-87 going into the final quarter.

Warriors assistant Mike Brown

stood in for Kerr, who still experiences lingering symptoms from complications following two back surgeries after the franchise's run to the 2015 championship. He missed the first 43 games last season dealing with symptoms such as headaches, nausea and an aching neck.

Despite his prolonged absence, the Warriors went 73-9 last season and played in the NBA championship game. Kerr was named Coach of the Year.

"I don't know all of the circumstances," Brown said before the game. "He's just not feeling well, and we'll see how he feels later on."

## Grizzlies 110, Spurs 108 OT

In Memphis, Marc Gasol hit a 12-foot floater with 0.7 seconds left in overtime, and the Memphis Grizzlies beat the San Antonio Spurs to even up their first-round series at 2-2.

The Grizzlies won despite blowing a 10-point lead with 7:38 left in regulation and 23 turnovers that San Antonio turned into 31 points.

Mike Conley set a franchise postseason record with 35 points, and Gasol finished with 16 points after

shooting 5 of 12 for the game. He also had 12 rebounds.

The Grizzlies overcame another postseason personal best from Kawhi Leonard who had 43 points. He rallied the Spurs by scoring the last 16 points of regulation, but missed a 21-footer short of the rim with James Ennis defending him just before the buzzer. Leonard tied it at 108 with 17 seconds left with a 3 from the left corner.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in San Antonio.

## Hawks 116, Wizards 98

In Atlanta, Paul Millsap scored 29 points, Dennis Schroder had 27 and the Atlanta Hawks delivered an early knockout blow against Washington, cruising to a victory that sliced the Wizards' lead to 2-1 in the opening-round playoff series.

After two tight losses in Washington exposed some bad blood between the teams, Atlanta returned home and built a 25-point lead by late in the first quarter. The Hawks were never seriously challenged by the Wizards, who were essentially a one-man team. John Wall kept up his dazzling play in the series, scoring 29 points, but the point guard got no help from

his teammates.

The other Washington starters combined to score 30 points on 14-of-45 shooting.

Millsap also had 14 rebounds, while rookie Taurean Prince chipped in with 16 points.

Game 4 is Monday night in Atlanta.

## Raptors 87, Bucks 76

In Milwaukee, DeMar DeRozan scored 33 points, and the Toronto Raptors beat the Milwaukee Bucks in a defensive slugfest to tie their first-round Eastern Conference playoff series at two games apiece.

Kyle Lowry had 14 of his 18 points in the second half for the Raptors, who turned up their intensity before a hostile road crowd after getting embarrassed in a 27-point loss to Milwaukee in Game 3. Toronto's tested backcourt reverted to its playmaking form, especially the resurgent DeRozan. He was 12 of 22 from the field after missing all eight of his attempts in Game 3.

The Raptors seized home-court advantage back in the best-of-seven series. Game 5 is Monday at the Air Canada Centre.

## Woods has 4th back surgery; likely to miss majors this year



**TEXAS**  
(AP)—One

day after saying his back was progressing,

Tiger Woods had a fourth back surgery to alleviate pain and will go through another year without playing a major.

The surgery was Wednesday at the Texas Back Institute.

Woods was in Missouri on Tuesday to announce plans to design a public golf course at Big Cedar Lodge, and he even tried hitting a few shots to a par 3. The first one rattled around in the rocks, and the

second shot was about 10 feet from the flag.

Asked about his health during the ceremony, Woods said he had good days and bad days. And then he flew to Dallas for fusion surgery to create space in his lower back.

The announcement on his website Thursday said typical recovery from a single-level fusion surgery is six months.

"The surgery went well, and I'm optimistic this will relieve my back spasms and pain," Woods said. "When healed, I look forward to getting back to a normal life, playing with my kids, competing in professional golf

and living without the pain I have been battling so long."

The 41-year-old Woods first had back surgery—a microdiscectomy—a week before the 2014 Masters, and he tried to return in three months. He sat out three months at the end of 2014 to let his body fully heal.

But after a 2015 season in which he missed the cut in three majors, he had back surgery in September and another one in October.

He went 15 months without competition before returning in December at his Hero World Challenge in the Bahamas, where Woods made 24 birdies in 72 holes and swung freely.

But then he missed the cut at Torrey Pines in January, and he withdrew from the Dubai Desert Classic on Feb. 3 after opening with a 77, citing back spasms.

And now he's gone through a fourth surgery.

"You see him in the Bahamas, and he looked pretty good," said Mark Steinberg, his agent at Excel Sports Management. "And then you see him in Dubai. It can happen any time. You heard him say two days ago, 'I have good days and bad days.' This surgery, we hope, eliminates the bad days."

Questions about the 14-

time major champion have shifted from if he will win another major to if he will play another major.

The statement on his website said Woods' bottom disc in his lower back has severely narrowed, causing sciatica and severe pain in his back and legs. Woods opted for

a fourth surgery when more conservative therapy, such as rest and injections, failed to solve anything.

"He had consulted with a number of top people that had recommended this was the way to go if he wanted a clear and final path," Steinberg said. "Everything he had done in the past was a temporary fix, so to speak. At that point, they

thought there were other alternatives than fusion."

Steinberg said they were advised fusion surgery was the best option if Woods wanted an active lifestyle and was willing to sit out the rest of the season.

"He should be better than he's been in the past five years," Steinberg said. "He's pretty encouraged."

The surgery was described as "anterior lumbar interbody fusion" at the L-5 and S-1 of his spine. It was performed by Richard Guyer of the institute's Center for Disc Replacement, and involved removing the damaged disc and lifting the collapsed disc space to normal levels.

# Jones hit in face by pitch as Tigers, Twins scrap on field

 MINNEAPOLIS (AP)— Not long after Detroit outfielder JaCoby Jones got hit in the face by a pitch, the Tigers and Minnesota Twins were nose-to-nose on the field.

Twins slugger Miguel Sano punched Tigers catcher James McCann in the mask during a bench-clearing scrap in the fifth inning of Detroit's 5-4 victory Saturday.

Jones was nailed in the mouth by a 90 mph fastball from Minnesota reliever Justin Haley in the third and left the game under his own power. Two innings later, Detroit starter Matthew Boyd threw behind Sano, who pointed his finger at the pitcher and yelled out toward the mound.

McCann intervened and appeared to put his mitt in the face of Sano, who let fly with a right hand and shoved McCann away. It appeared Sano connected with McCann's mask and perhaps his chest protector.

"I don't want to talk about what he said, but he touched me with his glove and I reacted," Sano said. "It was a glove to the face. They were supposed to eject McCann, too, but I saw they didn't eject him."

There was plenty of pushing and shoving near home plate as both benches and bullpens emptied, though there did not appear to be any other punches thrown. Sano and Boyd were both ejected.

"Boyd was all over the place all day," Tigers manager Brad Ausmus said. "He didn't exactly have the best command. But I guess there doesn't have to be a warning, so the umpires made that decision."

McCann said he took issue with Sano gesturing toward the mound and merely wanted to protect his pitcher.

"I didn't know what he was going to do," McCann said. "I saw him wag his finger at my pitcher and, as far as I'm concerned, you're not going to do that while I'm catching. So I just wanted to step in between and prevent anything from happening."

Jones was hit in the left side of his mouth by a third-inning pitch from Haley. Jones went down but sprang to his feet, tossed his helmet away and ran up the third base line in the direction of the Tigers' dugout.

He was met by Ausmus and a trainer, who put a towel to Jones' bleeding mouth. The rookie center fielder was escorted to the bench and later taken to a hospital for a CT scan.

"It was a nasty split lip. They think his teeth are all in-



AP Minnesota Twins' Brian Dozier, right, slides into the waiting tag by Detroit Tigers shortstop Dixon Machado on a steal attempt in the first inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 22, 2017, in Minneapolis.

before Peter Moylan took over. After Odor stole second base, Andrus hit a sharp single to left field.

## Diamondbacks 11, Dodgers 5

In Phoenix, Yasmany Tomas homered twice and David Peralta hit a team-record four doubles, leading Arizona over Los Angeles.

Chris Herrmann and Jake Lamb each hit a two-run homer for the Diamondbacks. Peralta scored three times and Tomas drove in his third run by drawing a bases-loaded walk as part of a three-run seventh inning.

## Rockies 12, Giants 3

In Denver, Antonio Senzatela got his third win in four major league starts, Trevor Story homered for the second straight night and Colorado beat San Francisco.

Charlie Blackmon tripled and homered, and Mark Reynolds also went deep for the Rockies, who have won five of six and can sweep the Giants with a win Sunday. San Francisco has lost five of six and dropped to 6-12 overall, worst in the NL.

Senzatela (3-0) allowed one run and four hits with no walks in seven innings.

## Marlins 6, Padres 3, 11 innings

In San Diego, Dee Gordon scored on his own swinging bunt in a crazy play during the 11th inning, Giancarlo Stanton homered twice and Miami beat San Diego.

The Marlins went ahead 4-2 with no outs in the 11th thanks to San Diego's sloppy defense.

With Justin Bour aboard on a pinch-hit single, reliever Jose Torres (1-1) fielded Gordon's dribbler and threw it away, with the ball rolling all the way into the right-field corner to allow Bour to score. Hunter Renfroe had difficulty picking up the ball, allowing Gordon to sprint home.

Seung Hwan Oh got his fourth save in five tries.

## Rangers 2, Royals 1

In Arlington, Elvis Andrus hit an RBI single with one out in the ninth inning and Texas topped Kansas City.

It was the second time in

three games that the Rangers won in their final at-bat against the Royals.

Rougned Odor led off the ninth with a sharp single off Travis Wood (0-2), who didn't face another batter

## Yankees 11, Pirates 5

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Chris Carter drilled a three-run homer in the eighth inning off reliever Felipe Rivero to lift New York over Pittsburgh.

Carter sent the first pitch he saw from Rivero (1-1) into the bullpen beyond the center field fence for his first homer with the Yankees. Starlin Castro added a three-run shot of his own and Aaron Judge hit his team-high sixth home run for New York. Ronald Torreyes had four hits and two RBI.

## Athletics 4, Mariners 3

In Oakland, Adam Rosales and Ryon Healy each homered in the first inning, Jharel Cotton pitched six innings of two-run ball and Oakland beat Seattle for its fifth straight win.

The two hottest A's hitters quickly got to Ariel Miranda (1-2). Rosales led off with his second homer, and two batters later, Healy hit a two-run shot, his third this season and first since April 6.

Cotton (2-2) gave up two runs and six hits. Ryan Madson got four outs for his first save.

## Rays 6, Astros 3

In St. Petersburg, Tim Beckham's third straight hit came during a four-run sixth inning that helped carry Tampa Bay over AL West-leading Houston.

Still missing slugger Yoenis Cespedes and other injured starters, New York has lost

seven of eight.

singled in two at-bats against starter Charlie Morton (1-2), drove in a run with his single in the sixth off reliever Will Harris. Evan Longoria had a two-run double for the Rays, who have won four of five.

## Orioles 4, Red Sox 2

In Baltimore, Trey Mancini and Jonathan Schoop homered in succession off knuckleballer Steven Wright, Jayson Aquino won his first big league start and Baltimore beat Boston for its fourth straight victory.

Baltimore will seek to complete a three-game sweep on Sunday. The Orioles have not lost a series this year and own the best record in the majors (12-4).

Aquino (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits over six innings to earn his first career victory. The 24-year-old lefty previously pitched three times in relief, all last year with Baltimore.

## Phillies 4, Braves 3, 10 innings

In Philadelphia, Maikel Franco hit a two-run single with two outs in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift Philadelphia over Atlanta.

Adonis Garcia's infield single drove in the go-ahead run in the top of the 10th after Brandon Phillips hit a tying solo homer off Edubray Ramos with two outs in the ninth, but Philadelphia rallied against Jim Johnson (2-1).

## Indians 7, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Carlos Carrasco pitched eight innings of three-hit ball, helping Cleveland shut out Chicago for the second straight night.

Carrasco (2-1) struck out eight and did not allow a runner to reach second base.

The White Sox haven't scored in 23 innings. Cleveland ace Corey Kluber threw a three-hitter against them Friday night.

## Cardinals 4, Brewers 1

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Aledmys Diaz delivered a go-ahead homer in the seventh, Lance Lynn pitched six strong innings and St. Louis defeated Milwaukee.

Diaz, who didn't start at shortstop due to back stiffness and a sore shoulder, homered leading off the seventh against reliever Carlos Torres (0-2).

Lynn (2-1) gave up a run and three hits. He struck out seven and walked two.

Seung Hwan Oh got his fourth save in five tries.

## Rangers 2, Royals 1

In Arlington, Elvis Andrus hit an RBI single with one out in the ninth inning and Texas topped Kansas City.

It was the second time in three games that the Rangers won in their final at-bat against the Royals.

Rougned Odor led off the ninth with a sharp single off Travis Wood (0-2), who didn't face another batter

## Angels 5, Blue Jays 4

In Anaheim, Andrelton Simmons hit a tiebreaking grand slam, Tyler Skaggs pitched into the eighth inning and Los Angeles held off slumping Toronto.

Simmons connected in the third inning off Casey Lawrence (0-2) for his second career slam, helping the Angels snap a three-game skid and win for the second time in 11 games.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER



Mariana Variety stole the victory from Arianne Fish Mart, 86-85, during the lone game played in the 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Saturday at the San Antonio court.

Melvin Villarin hit the dagger—a triple that was his only basket in the match. Villarin knocked in the shot of the night from the left key in front of their bench with the ball hitting nothing but the bottom of the net.

After his back-breaking trey, Arianne Fish Mart was left with two seconds to pull up for a shot and Ken Viray did manage to take the last attempt. However, his alley-oop shot rimmed out. It was a sorry loss for Arianne Fish Mart as it led in the majority of the game with Viray taking charge and getting support from Paulo San-

# MV noses out Arianne Fish Mart

guyo and Ramon Mungcal.

Viray and Mungcal combined for 15 points in the first quarter to give Arianne Market a 22-16 advantage. *Marianas Variety* kept Arianne Fish Mart within striking distance at the end of the opening canto, thanks to Ivan Devero's 5 straight points.

Devero was still on target in the second quarter, but failed to get help from his teammates, while Viray and company spread the wealth to retain the driver's seat at the break, 47-39.

Arianne Fish Mart's lead was then sliced to 3 going into the final canto, 62-65, as Devero was still unstoppable while his teammates slowly started to contribute on offense. Then in the fourth quarter, Devero found an ally in Prince Factor to keep *Marianas Variety* in the game, but their efforts

were overshadowed by the triple of Villarin, who made the most out of his limited minutes by converting the long jumper.

Devero top-scored for

*Marianas Variety* with his 38 points, while Factor chipped in 17. Viray led Arianne Fish Mart with his 25 markers, while Mungcal and Sanguyo added 18 and 16,

respectively.

**Marianas Variety 86** — Devero 38, F. Factor 17, Pineda 8, Supetron 6, Manibusan 4, Standish 4, A. Factor 4, Villarin 3, Babauta 2.

**Arianne Fish Mart 85** — Viray 25, Mungcal 18, Sanguyo 16, Inos 9, Paraiso 8, Mangali 6, Guiang 3.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-22, 39-47, 62-65, 86-85.

## TANHOLDINGS

From Page 28

were a bit gun shy as even though they had open looks for a shot, they opted to make extra passes, which they could not turn into goals, as MP United's defense had already set up. TanHoldings made a couple of attempts and did not succeed, as Izuka held his ground and caught the ball, leaving both teams scoreless in the first half.

In the second half, TanHoldings sensed the urgency to score with the season on the line. Esalan anchored the squad's offense, using his speed to break away from his defenders and his persistence eventually paid off in the 44th minute.

Meanwhile, Paire FC avoided a shutout this season after beating Matansa, 6-4, in its last game in the division.

Dai Podziewski knocked in a pair of goals for Paire, which wrapped up the competition with a 1-1-6 record. Ja Min Elliot, Lukesh Lama, Rex De Jose, and George Sokarev chipped in one goal apiece in Paire's good finish.

Matansa, which also ended the season with a 1-1-6 card, drew one goal each from Joshua De Leon and Justin Charles Achas. Matansa and Paire fell behind Kanoa FC in the final team standings as the latter held a 2-2-4 slate.

other victories were against Seong Eon Heo, 6-0, 6-0, and Eugene Park, 6-0, 6-1.

Ryu, on the other hand, eliminated Hyunmin Cho, 6-0, 6-1, and Richard Steele, 7-5, 6-2, to earn the right to face Lee in the finals. Steele rounded out the Top 3 in the boys U14 singles after a come-from-behind 3-6, 6-3, 12-10 win over Park yesterday.

After taking home the boys U14 singles title victory last Sunday morning, Lee returned to the AMP courts in the afternoon to get the boys U16 singles championship. He was also unbeaten in the round-robin contest, gaining the division crown after shutting down Seong Bin Heo yesterday, 6-0, 6-0. Lee's other win was recorded in Week 1 against Ken Xue, 6-1, 6-1.

In the boys U14 singles, Sean Lee did not drop a single set in the competition en route to the championship win in the division. The top-ranked Lee claimed the title yesterday after a 6-2, 6-0 triumph versus No. 2 Sam Ryu. Lee's two

## Philly set to welcome NFL draft in grand way



**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Yo, Roger, they did it.

When the NFL chose Philadelphia to host the 2017 draft, it quickly became clear one of the world's most famous movie locations would be the perfect site to hold the three-day extravaganza.

"We had talked about a couple different venues for the NFL and they wanted the Rocky steps and they wanted the Art Museum," Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney told The Associated Press. "So that's what we gave them. It will be a terrific event."

Perhaps NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell will run up the famous steps before announcing the No. 1 pick. Those same steps immortalized by fictional hero Rocky Balboa 41 years ago will serve as the backdrop for the elaborate stage, including a 3,000-seat, open-air theater, being constructed along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway for the NFL's first outdoor draft.

The free event is being called the largest fan experience ever produced by the NFL. More than 200,000 people are expected to visit the half-mile area next week to enjoy the festivities. The first round begins Thursday night.

"There was no better way to highlight the city of Philadelphia than to showcase some of its most iconic venues—from the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, to the Philadelphia Museum of Art, to the Franklin Institute," NFL spokesman Kamran Mumtaz said.

Some tourists and residents in the area have been grum-



AP

The Rocky statue stands in view of the stage being constructed for the upcoming 2017 NFL football draft on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art in Philadelphia, Tuesday, April 18, 2017. When the NFL chose Philadelphia to host the 2017 draft, they insisted on holding the three-day event at the Art Museum in front of the iconic Rocky steps.

bling for weeks about the lack of access to sidewalks and roads, and about the giant stage blocking most of the iconic "Rocky" steps.

Visitors won't be able to run up those steps and raise their arms triumphantly at the top the way Sylvester Stallone did in the movie, but they could walk up the steps from the side and they can visit the Rocky statue at the bottom.

Joaquim Marquet, of Valencia, Spain, came down to Philadelphia from New York City just to run up the steps Thursday.

"It was the one thing I wanted to do," the 32-year-old said. "(It) was a bit disappointing, but I understand you can't stop everything just for tourists."

There will be a ton of other, fun activities for visitors in-

side the NFL Draft Experience, which stretches the length of 25 football fields.

One of the interactives includes an opportunity for fans to test their 40-yard dash time against players. Adults and kids can kick field goals, run through obstacles or try the new 100-yard zip line.

"I will not be on the zip line, but I'm sure the more adventurous will be lined up for it," Kenney said.

Those who prefer to stay on the ground can get autographs from current and former players, take pictures with the Vince Lombardi Trophy and much more. Fans outside the theater can follow the draft on giant television screens.

"The NFL is really engaged in the fan experience process," said Julie Coker Graham, President and CEO

of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The City of Brotherly Love is getting used to major events. Philadelphia hosted the Democratic National Convention last summer and Pope Francis in 2015.

"We certainly do big events well," Coker Graham said. "But to have the NFL choose us, our city, Philadelphia and then to choose the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, and the iconic steps of the Art Museum is kind of a dream come true."

The 82nd NFL draft is returning to its birthplace for the first time since 1961 and 11th time overall. On February 8, 1936, the first NFL draft was held at Philadelphia's Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Teams took turns over nine rounds picking from 90 names written on a blackboard. There was no media coverage.

## SONICS

From Page 28

ics XVI whipped the Ol'Aces Extreme, 63-44, while in the boys U15 game last Saturday, the 670 Sonics PHI had a similar easy victory against the Kagman Rollers, 48-25.

The 670 Sonics PHI held Kagman to four field goals and 9 points in the first half to set up the 23-point winning margin.

While Kagman struggled on its offense, 670 Sonics PHI had little problems hitting its target as Clarenz Contreras and Khristian Itaas teamed

up in giving their squad the needed points. The duo nearly matched the output of the entire Kagman crew as Contreras registered 14 points and the lefty Itaas chipped in 10.

Contreras dropped 8 of his total markers in the first half to lift 670 Sonics PHI to a 25-9 halftime edge. Itaas, on the other hand, recorded all his points in the second half, including 7 straight markers past the halfway mark of the final 20 minutes of play.

In the boys U18 division, the 670 Sonics XVI broke away in the second half after clinging to a 14-12 lead at halftime. Cen-

ter Jester Kintaro anchored the 670 Sonics XVI's strong showing in the final frame after drilling all his 10 points in that period. Rafael Ordona and Sean Apasan then provided support to Kintaro after combining for 14 markers.

In other results last weekend, the Natibu Warriors eked out a 52-50 victory over the Kagman Rollers in their boys U18 tiff, while the Junior Ol'Aces edged the Ol'Aces in the women's division, 47-41.

Analei Santos and Mary Kay Alferos scored 8 of the Junior Ol'Aces last 10 points to power their team to the 6-point

win. Alferos ended up with 16 markers, while Santos chipped in 15. Chevy Kate Alipio had 11 points on a losing effort for the Ol'Aces.

In the Natibu-Kagman game, the former also leaned on two players in the home-stretch to take the close win.

Henry Aguon and Jeff Omar teamed up in Natibu's last 8 points with the former making 5 and the latter adding 3. They split their free throws in the closing minute to keep Natibu in the lead. Aguon top-scored for Natibu with his 12 points, while Aaron Ogunmoro paced Kagman with his 19 markers.

# CNMI vs Chinese-Taipei

PHOTOS By EAST ASIAN FOOTBALL FEDERATION



The CNMI Girls U15 National Team's Jerlyn Castillo, left, takes a shot during their game against Chinese-Taipei in the EAFF U15 Girls Tournament 2017 last week at the Jinshan Sports Center in Shanghai, China.

©GFA



The CNMI's Valeria Myers, left, tries to dribble past a Chinese-Taipei defender.

©GFA



The CNMI's Francesca Bucalig, left, battles a Chinese-Taipei player for possession.



The CNMI's Paulynn Grace Joyce, right, attempts to beat a Chinese-Taipei player to the ball.



The CNMI's Esther Jones, third left, gets to the ball first.



CNMI defenders surround a Chinese-Taipei player.



Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan, left, poses with members of the CNMI Girls U15 National Team during the closing ceremony of the East Asian Football Federation-organized event.



The CNMI Girls U15 National Team players gather for a group photo.



Warriors near series sweep against Trail Blazers

PAGE 24

28 MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017

# Saipan Tribune Sports

Jones hit in face by pitch as Tigers, Twins scrap on field

PAGE 25



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Kang stamps his class in boys U12 singles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Daniel Kang capped his domination in the boys U12 age group with a title win in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships.

The top-ranked Kang swept the unseeded Jiwoong Kwon in the finals yesterday, 6-2, 6-0, at the American Memorial Park, to bag his third singles crown in the division in the final local tournament of the 2016-2017 season. Kang's first two boys U12 singles titles were from in the 8th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic (against Anthony Gregoire) in November



last year and the 2017 White Coconut Tennis Classic (opposite Richard Steele). In the NMITA-organized 2017 Junior Fun Tennis Tournament, Kang opted to join the U14 singles contest and also won in the finals against Steele, giving the former a 4-for-4 performance in the championship round.

Kang moved a win away from clinching his third straight boys U12 singles title after eliminating the No. 3 seed Jae Yun Jung in the semifinals last Saturday, 6-1, 6-1. Kwon, who stunned the No. 2 seed Gregoire in the Week 1, pulled off another upset last weekend after downing

No. 4 Andrew Chung in the other Final Four pairing, 6-4, 6-3. Chung eventually had to settle for fourth place after Jung won their battle for third, 6-4, 6-3.

Meanwhile, two more No. 1 seed players also ruled their respective divisions.

The favored Robbie Schorr earned the boys U18 singles title after easing past Michael Ren in yesterday's finale, 6-1, 6-2. Ren, who was unranked

**See KANG on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Daniel Kang turns for a return to Jae Yun Jung in their semis game in the boys U12 singles competition in the 2017 CNMI Junior Tennis Championships last Saturday at the AMP courts.



## TanHoldings keeps title hopes alive

### Double victories for Sonics

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

It was a fruitful weekend for the Sonics, as the group's two teams won their respective games in the 2017 Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



In the boys U18 division match last Friday, the 670 Sonics

**See SONICS on Page 26**



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
The 670 Sonics PHI's Khris-tian Itaas soars for a layup against a Kagman Rollers defender during the second half of their boys U15 division game in the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club escaped with an important 1-0 victory over rival MP United FC in the final regular season game in the boys U17 division of the 2017 NMIFA Youth Spring League last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.



The win put TanHoldings in a tie for first place with MP United as the two teams ended the double-round robin competition with similar 7-0-1 win-draw-loss records. A playoff game will be held to decide the winner of the division title and the organizing Northern Mariana Islands Football Association



has yet to announce the date of the rubber. MP United, which only needed a draw to defend its spring title, failed to shut the door on TanHoldings after giving up a goal to Mark Esalan just four minutes into the second half.

Esalan beat three MP United defenders to the ball and with the TanHoldings player sprinting ahead of their opponents, goalie Clayton Izuka was forced to leave his spot and tried to dive for the ball to prevent the former from kicking the leather. However, Izuka lost his footing a bit and fell on the ground without his hand on the ball, while Esalan jumped over the MP United goalie and kicked the ball in.

Esalan was then mobbed by his teammates as he ended TanHoldings' frustration. Esalan, in the early part of the 40-minute second half, attempted to score twice, but was denied by Izuka on both occasions. Then in the first half, TanHoldings players

**See TANHOLDINGS on Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
TanHoldings FC's Terrance Montenegro, left, deflects a pass intended for MP United's James Kim during the second half of their boys U17 division game in the NMIFA youth league last Saturday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.